Lina pressuring Dante Tan, says Estrada

STORY ON PAGE A2

₱15

IN *Sunday*LIFESTYLE

Martin & Yedah Romualdez

- Unusual love stories /C1, D1
- Boots Anson-Roa: Ex-future 'senadora' /G1
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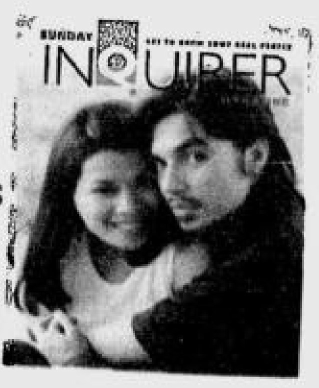
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FEBRUARY 11, 2001 ★ 84 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 65

TODAY IN THE

- Ira Cruz and Mylene Dizon: Friends in love
- Tita Swarding's secret life



Erap's US trip opposed

But Drilon says gov't should let him go for humanitarian reasons

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada's announced plan to seek treatment in the United States for an eye condition is but a ploy to flee prosecution.

This view was aired yesterday not only by Malacañang and lawmakers in both chambers of Congress but also militant groups and human rights lawyers.

Renato Corona, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson and chief of staff, said Estrada might use the trip to escape the corruption cases filed against him before the Ombudsman.

"Maybe we should not let him leave," Corona said over radio station dzMM.

Sen. Franklin Drilon also said as much, as did congressmen interviewed by the INQUIRER, including the House prosecutors at Estrada's impeachment trial.

But Drilon also said Estrada could be allowed to leave for humanitarian considerations.

"But there should be iron-clad guarantees that he will return to the country, or that the surgery would be done in a country where we have an extradition treaty," Drilon said in a phone interview.

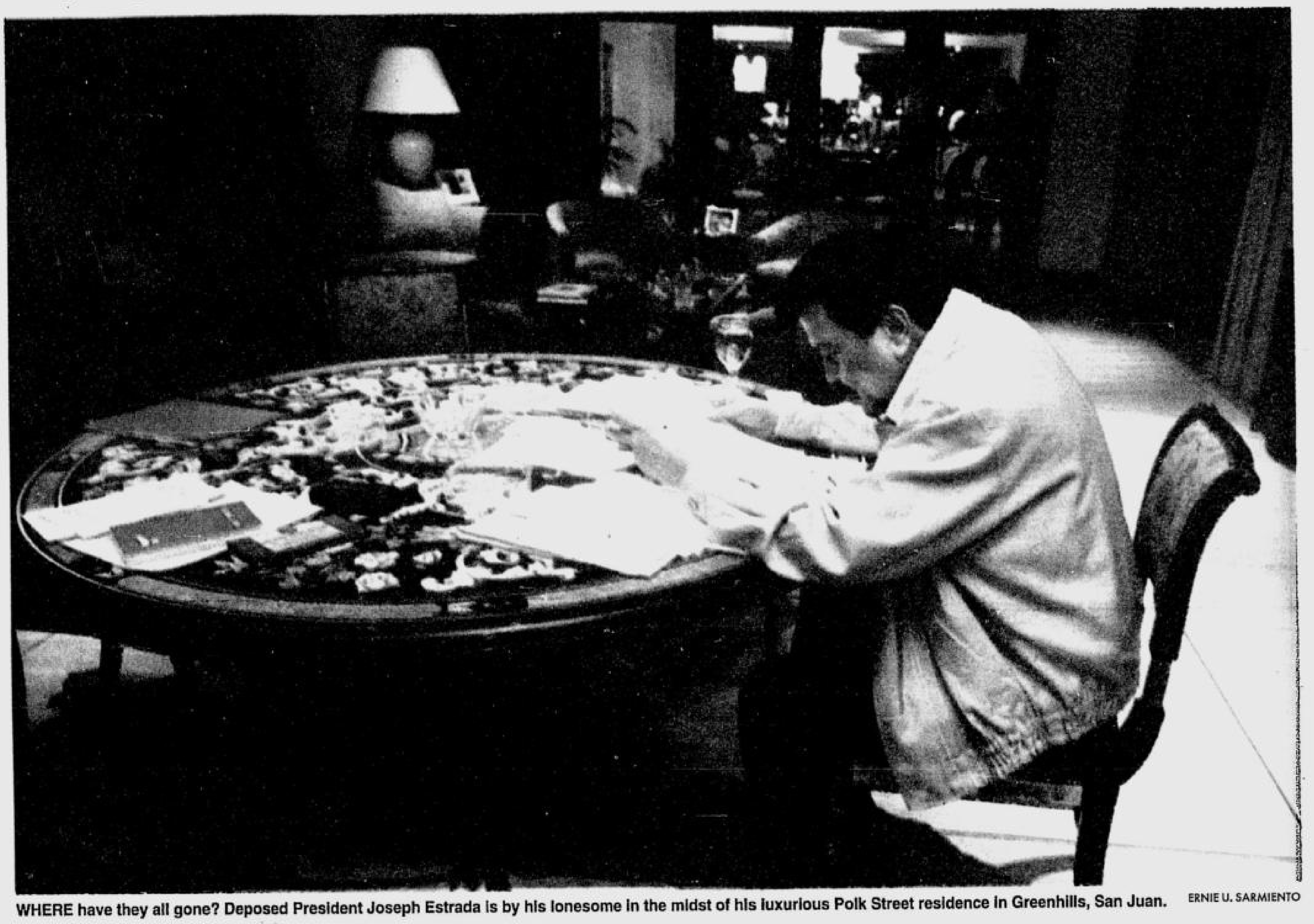
If the matter were raised before a court, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the Department of Justice would not have control over it.

"The court can ask us to allow him to leave," Perez noted.

The congressmen said the Macapagal administration should think twice before allowing the disgraced leader to leave.

Drilon said Estrada was engaging in "reverse psychology" when he said he was afraid the Macapagal administration might not allow him

ERAP'S/ A16



WHERE have they all gone? Deposed President Joseph Estrada is by his lonesome in the midst of his luxurious Polk Street residence in Greenhills, San Juan. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Gloria has bad hair day, shuns media

BY DONNA S. CUETO

MAYBE President Macapagal-Arroyo was having a bad-hair day and so turned suddenly media-shy. Or maybe she just wanted a little privacy.

Only three weeks in office, the President took her policy of "no ambush interviews" a step further yesterday and barred the media from covering events on the day's presidential itinerary.

These included visits to wounded soldiers at the AFP Medical Center and to the Holy Family Church to check on the condition of 3,500 families victimized by dawn fires in Manila and Makati.

While reporters have started getting used to Ms Macapagal's prac-

GLORIA/ A16

Estrada under 'housewife' arrest

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

HE MAY have lost Malacañang, but certainly not his sense of humor.

Ousted President Joseph Estrada, still hurting nearly a month after mass protests forced him to step down, appeared relaxed under what he called "housewife" arrest.

Asked how he was, Estrada told the INQUIRER Friday afternoon: "Well, I'm very healthy now. I have more time to exercise, do some calisthenics, plus sauna."

"And, of course, I'm virtually under housewife arrest," the 63-year-old former movie actor chuckled over an afternoon snack of *siopao, sotanghon, pan de sal* and cheese.

The justice department has barred him from traveling abroad amid an Ombudsman investigation of his alleged unexplained wealth.

Even so, Estrada was also in a jovial mood when he talked with another batch of journalists on Friday evening.

"The happiest person here is (former) first lady (Dr. Loi Ejercito-Estrada). She does not like to return to Malacañang," he told them over dinner at his grand home at No. 1 Polk Street, Greenhills, San Juan.

Estrada, who has acknowledged keeping several mistresses, said "the first lady is the happiest person here. She can have me for herself."

He said his wife was no longer running for senator in the May 14 general elections.

Estrada smoked China-made "Panda" cigarettes and offered drinks to every one.

"We are all jobless now, so I guess it's all right to have wine," he said, adding he had not had Scotch, his favorite drink, since he took office as President on June 30, 1998. He shifted to red wine, though.

ESTRADA/ A16

Love is a bowl of steaming hot 'lugaw'

SUNDAY lunch is a treat for street children in Quezon City and chicken soup for the souls of the caregivers. C.P. DOYO

BY MA. CERES P. DOYO

FOR the past three years, Billy and Lou (not their real names) have been engaged in what they call their "*lugaw* ministry."

Every Sunday shortly before noon, husband and wife leave their home, drive to a busy street corner in Quezon City and park their car in front of an office building.

They haul out three big cauldrons containing steaming-hot chicken *arroz caldo* plus shelled boiled eggs, condiments, plastic bowls, spoons, ladles, drinking glasses, water, a huge umbrella and portable stands.

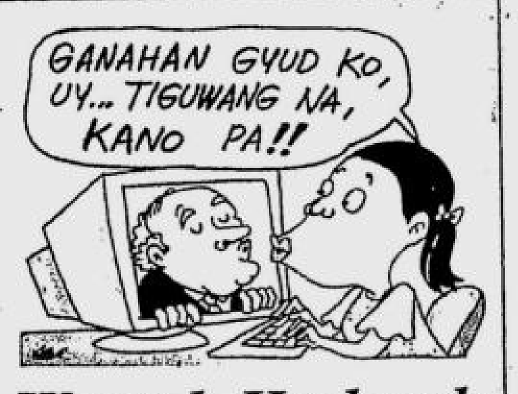
When everything is set up, grimy children come running from all directions, eyes lit up, hands waving joyfully. They fall in line and wait to be served. But first, someone from among them must step out of the line and lead a prayer of thanksgiving. A child volunteers and prays aloud, uttering something straight from the heart.

Now lunch is ready.

It's a small story about a small deed and ordinary people. But if multiplied and put together, it can make a big difference in the lives of hungry children in the streets.

One morning more than three years ago, Billy and Lou, both in their early 40s, were on their regular walk on the tree-lined university lane in Quezon City. They got to talking about doing something good for others—small enough for them to handle, but concrete, as concrete as the pavement they were walking on.

LOVE/ A16



GANAHAN GYUD KO, UY... TIGUWANG NA, KANO PA!!

Wanted: Husbands on the Net; locals need not apply

BY ALLAN A. NAWAL
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DIGOS CITY—The more things change, the more they remain the same.

The dream of being whisked away by a rich husband to another country is apparently still alive here, but some women have gone high-tech in their search for foreign husbands.

WANTED/ A16

Second FRONT PAGE

AYAW NA
AYAW PA
NAMAN NI
ERAP NG
NAMIMILIT !

Buenaventura critics told: Sue him

BY DONNA CUETO

SO sue him.

Malacañang yesterday urged those protesting the continued stay of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura to formalize their objections with a civil action.

Renato Corona, spokesperson and chief of staff of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said that the government could not initiate action against the BSP chief, whose six-year tenure ends in 2005.

"We have a process in our laws that once a person is appointed and has taken his oath, any complainant questioning the continuance of his stay in office should file a case," Corona said in a radio interview.

He said that accordingly, the President should not anymore be bothered on the question.

Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo and Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, former prosecutors in the Estrada impeachment trial, had suggested that Buenaventura had forewarned Estrada and the BSP Employees Association about the closure of Urban Bank.

They claimed this allowed the disgraced president to withdraw P143 million from a numbered account and the association to pre-terminate its P15-million deposit days before the bank declared a bank holiday on April 26, 2000.

Lina pressuring Dante Tan–Erap

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC
AND VOLT CONTRERAS

THE JUSTICE department has ordered the reinvestigation of Dante Tan and others believed to have been behind the country's biggest stock manipulation scandal, even as ousted President Joseph Estrada charged that the new administration was "threatening and intimidating" his friends into testifying against him.

In an interview at his Polk Street home the other day, Estrada also doubted he would get a fair trial on the plunder and other raps filed against him before the Office of the Ombudsman since, he said, the latter was also "being pressured."

Estrada said Tan, BW Resources Corp. chair and his close friend, was being convinced by Interior Secretary Joey Lina to bolster the charges before the Ombudsman.

"That's what he (Tan) told me," Estrada said in Filipino. "He said Secretary Lina called and told him, '*Maawa ka sa pamilya mo*'" (Have pity on your family)."

"What business does the DILG secretary have calling witnesses? Maybe the secretary of justice or the Ombudsman do but not the DILG secretary. You see. All the forces of the government are (being used to) work on the witnesses," Estrada said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez moved to reopen the BW Resources case after it was felt that the Estrada administration had failed to prosecute those responsible for the scandal that rocked and nearly shut down the Philippine Stock Exchange in 1999.

Perez said he has ordered assistant chief state prosecutor Nilo Mariano to determine if there is prima facie evidence to file additional charges in the case.

The INQUIRER had reported that Tan posted a net gain of about P2.7 billion after he allegedly sold 537 million BW shares in over-the-counter transactions at the PSE.

Estrada got involved in the controversy when it was revealed that he had tried to influence then SEC chair Perfecto Yasay's investigation into the stock price manipulation.

During Estrada's impeachment trial at the Senate, former finance secretary Edgardo Espiritu testified it was his understanding that the former president was part owner of BW Resources.

More than 50 individuals, eight brokers and two investment houses were investigated by a four-man prosecution panel led by Mariano but they were cleared of any wrongdoing except for Tan, former BW president Eduardo "Moonie" Lim Jr. and Jimmy Juan, a friend of Tan's.

The charges, for violation of the Securities Act, are pending.

Contacted by telephone in Laguna yesterday, Lina denied pressuring Tan to turn against Estrada.

"I did not call Tan and I'm not pressuring anyone to testify against the former president. I'm too busy with my work," Lina said.

Estrada, however, insisted in the interview that, "I know all the witnesses are being intimidated and being threatened, including their families. They have already reported to me. I know that for a fact." He added that they (witnesses) were "offered something in return" for turning against him.

In a separate interview yesterday, Tan denied Lina had tried to persuade him to testify against Estrada.

"*Hindi naman talaga siya lumapit sa akin* (It's not true that he came up to me). He (Estrada) may have thought that because Lina is a friend," Tan said.

Tan admitted, however, that "a lot of friends are pressuring me from all angles."

These friends, he said, were advising him to testify against Estrada. He declined to identify them, however. *With Elena R. Torrijos*

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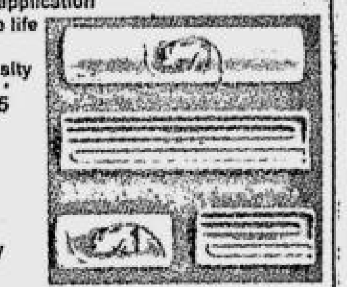

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Peace talks with rebels welcomed

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

MILITANT groups yesterday welcomed the resumption of peace negotiations between the government and the National Democratic Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front but said President Macapagal-Arroyo should show her sincerity by dropping any preconditions to the talks.

Party list group Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo, former NDF spokesman, said Ms Macapagal should drop the preconditions set by her predecessors and initiate measures that would provide a "conducive atmosphere" for the talks.

"The President should pursue the peace talks and renounce the policy of total war and militarism to address the country's social ills," Ocampo said.

"Forming peace panels is one thing but forging peace is another," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chair Rafael Mariano.

Both groups said the Macapagal administration should first ensure the prosecution of ousted President Joseph Estrada as well as release some 250 political prisoners to show its sincerity in wanting a lasting peace accord.

Ceasefire

Presidential assistant for southern Mindanao Jesus Dureza, chair of the government peace panel that will meet with the MILF, said in Davao City yesterday that a ceasefire will top the agenda of the peace talks.

"The cessation of military operations will be among the initial issues the panel will discuss," Dureza said.

He made no commitment, however, to the demand of evacuees and other groups that government soldiers be pulled out of the war-affected areas to allow for the safe and immediate return of the displaced residents to their homes.

He said the pullback proposal would have to be carefully studied by the government, considering the "security situation and the complexities" on the ground. *With Jowel F. Canuday, Charlie C. Señase and Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Roco: Help!

Blanche S. Rivera

HELP!

Even before he could be officially sworn in as the new education secretary, Sen. Raul Roco has called on the Macapagal administration for "all the help" he could get to steer the graft-ridden Department of Education, Culture and Sports from the pits of corruption.

Roco, who bade the Senate goodbye last Thursday, said his and the administration's biggest task would be to liberate the public school teachers and students from long years of bondage in debt and ignorance.

Speaking before the Bantay Katarungan founders and guests at the Club Filipino Thursday night when he was cited for his "excellent performance" during the impeachment trial, Roco urged President Macapagal to help him leave a legacy of liberation to the overworked-underpaid public school teachers.

"We need all your help to emancipate the teachers and emancipate the students from continued ignorance; we need all your help," Roco said.

Popoy buried tomorrow

SLAIN labor leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman will be laid to rest at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina on Monday, Feb. 12, at 5 p.m.

A concelebrated funeral Mass will be held at the Church of the Holy Sacrifice at UP Diliman at 1 p.m. It will be followed by a funeral march to the Loyola Park. Interment will be exactly 5 p.m., the approximately time when Popoy Lagman was assassinated, according to a press statement from former Rep. Edcel Lagman, elder brother of Popoy.

Feb. 12 is also memorable to the Lagman family.as it is the birthday of the late lawyer Hermon C. Lagman who was a victim of enforced disappearance during the martial law regime.

On Monday morning, the Partido ng Manggagawa, which was conceptualized and organized by Popoy Lagman, will be launched in a congress to be held at the UP Bahay ng Alumni where Lagman was ambushed.

Tuaño, 68

THELMA Badelles Tuaño died at 4 p.m. yesterday at the National Kidney Institute after a lingering illness. She was 68.

She is survived by her husband, lawyer Jose Tuaño, and children Jeana Ang, Sheilah and Joe, Babette, Boogie and Christine, Juvy and Janet, Blessie and Ian, Ritchie and Candice, Hannah and Sharon.

Her body lies at the St. Peter's Basilica on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

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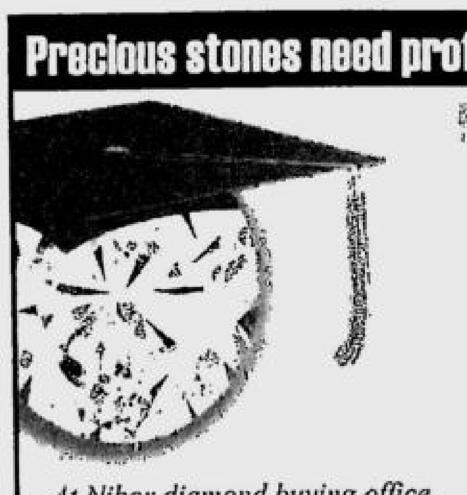

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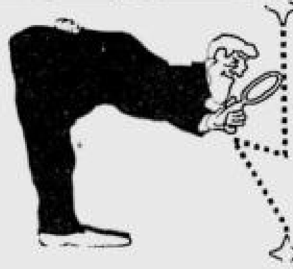

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Time : 2:30 p.m.

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Time : 4:00 p.m.

MR. DIONNE ANG
- Immigration Specialist
- Bachelor of Science in Commerce, Ateneo de Davao Univ.
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LIVE-IN CAREGIVER PROGRAM
Time : 5:00 p.m.

MR. TIRSO ZAGADA
- Canadian Immigration Specialist
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- Live-in Caregiver Program Consultant
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MESSAGE OF THE NATIONAL PASTORAL CONSULTATION ON CHURCH RENEWAL

1. In 1991 the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP-II) boldly challenged the Church in the Philippines to be a *Community of Disciples*, a *Church of the Poor*, committed to the mission of *renewed integral evangelization*, toward the building up of a new *civilization of life and love* in our land. Ten years later, from January 22 to 27, 2001, we, 369 lay people, religious sisters and brothers, priests, and bishops from all over the Philippines, gathered at Makati City to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. We now share our concerns with you, our sisters and brothers in the faith.

2. **Renewal as God's Gift and Our Response.** "Behold, I make all things new!"(*Rev.* 21:5). Already, God has made all things new in Jesus Christ. In his ministry, passion, death and resurrection, Jesus has brought a new way of being human, a new way of relating to God, a new way of being a community. The renewing Spirit offers the gift of newness to all (cf. *Rom.* 8) and animates the new family of God to renew all things in Jesus Christ (cf. *Eph.* 1:10).

3. The grand vision and mission of PCP-II expresses this gift of newness. This gift calls us to conversion and deeper faith (cf. *Mk.* 1:15). We must let go of old ways, die to our old selves, and dare to risk new ways (cf. *Col.* 3:9-10; *Eph.* 4:22-24).

4. **Our Changing Situation.** A decade after PCP-II, we still suffer the ills of unbalanced economic and political structures and ambivalent cultural traits. New factors have spawned new ills. Globalization is bringing in an individualistic and materialistic global culture that is eroding our treasured civic and religious values. New forms of oppression of the poor are appearing. The recent presidential impeachment trial has demonstrated the scandalous level of corruption.

5. In the Church many prescriptions of PCP-II have not been implemented for many reasons. But the root cause is our hardness of heart and resistance to conversion. For some leaders new attitudes and lifestyles necessary for the Church of the Poor have not taken root. We confess some responsibility for many of our social ills.

6. But we rejoice in many movements in Church and in society. They promote the cause of women, the youth, farmers, laborers, fisher folk, the urban and rural poor, overseas workers, families, tribal communities, and the environment. The Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 and the dramatic events of People Power II made us experience God's gift of renewal and once again call us to work for renewal.

7. **Pastoral Priorities.**
   Through prayerful discernment, we in the National Pastoral Consultation believe that the Spirit of God has led us to identify nine pastoral priorities. Each of these priorities calls for a radical conversion of mind and heart. Their realization demands deep prayer and union with Christ, especially in the Eucharist.

   A. *Integral Faith Formation.* At the heart of pastoral renewal is faith formation. We must have Integral Faith to fulfill our vocation and mission. It has to be a faith that does justice and liberates. It has to be a discerning faith that sees the action of God in our lives and in our communities. A tool for this priority is the *Catechism for Filipino Catholics*.

   B. *Empowerment of the Laity toward Social Transformation.* We shall promote and support the exercise of the God-given gifts and charisms of lay people. Lay people must take the lead in social transformation. In particular we shall consult a wide range of women's experiences in different life situations and explore new possible roles of women in Church and society.

   C. *Active Presence and Participation of the Poor in the Church.* If we are to become a Church of the poor, we must be evangelically poor. We shall learn from the poor and seek to liberate ourselves from values, behavior and lifestyles that discriminate against the poor. As poor among the poor, struggling with them toward integral liberation, we shall live, celebrate, and share our common faith in Jesus, crucified and risen.

   D. *The family as focal point of evangelization.* Because the family is the basic cell of the Church and society, the Gospel has first to be shared in the family. Many cultural distortions originate in the family. Integral faith formation must, therefore, take place in the family for all members. Through a more intensive evangelization focused on the family, the family has to become a key agent of proclaiming the Gospel.

   E. *Building and Strengthening of Participatory Communities that Make up the Parish as a Community of Communities.* We shall support the growth and strengthening of Basic Ecclesial Communities and other forms of faith communities as vehicles of renewal. We shall strive to integrate them in parish life and activities and develop structures of coordination and participatory decision-making.

   F. *Integral Renewal of the Clergy.* To address the lack of witnessing by some of the clergy, we shall ensure deeper dialogue of life between the clergy and the poor so that lifestyles may conform to that of the poor Christ. For genuine servant-leadership, we shall provide effective clergy formation in human development, spirituality, scripture, theology, pastoral care and mission.

   G. *Journeying with the Youth.* The youth are the most numerous in our population. They are some of the most active workers of renewal in the Church and in society. But they are also most vulnerable to the negative developments in our rising technological society. We affirm their gifts and immense capacity to pursue the Christian ideal in their lives and in society. We shall dialogue with them, enter their world, and journey with them toward the maturity of Christ to which we all aspire.

   H. *Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue.* To achieve the unity that Christ willed, we shall strive to eradicate prejudices, grow in deeper understanding and appreciation of other faiths and religious traditions, especially Islam. We shall engage in a dialogue of life, faith, prayer and common action with them. As a way to healing, reconciliation and national unity, we shall encourage dialogue among all sectors of society.

   I. *Animation and Formation for Mission "ad Gentes".* We shall respond to the Holy Father's challenge that Filipinos become "the foremost missionaries for all of Asia". Therefore, we shall ensure that mission animation and formation will be integral to religious formation in the family, schools, and other institutes of formation.

8. **An Appeal.** We enjoin our sisters and brothers in the faith to appropriate these nine general pastoral priorities, and reflect, discern, plan, and act together on these priorities. We all have to heed the call to conversion and prayer that alone makes renewal possible.

9. **Conclusion.** *Duc in altum.* "Put out into the deep" (*Lk.* 5:4), Jesus bade Peter. Fishing all night, Peter had caught nothing. Yet at Jesus' word, Peter put out his nets and was surprised by the miraculous catch of fish. Today we have to put out into the depths of Philippine life and society, the depths of our life as Church, the unknown depths of the future. It is the Lord who calls us. Like Peter, with faith and trust we dare to begin again. May Mary, Star of Evangelization, accompany us on our journey to the new creation we so deeply desire.

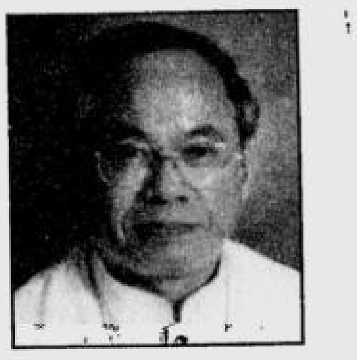
For the Delegates of the National Pastoral Consultation on Church Renewal:

+Orlando B. Quevedo, omi
+ **ORLANDO B. QUEVEDO, O.M.I., D.D.**
Archbishop of Cotabato
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines
January 27, 2001

The National Pastoral Consultation on Church Renewal (NPCCR) was convened by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) to discuss the present situation of the Church and society on the occasion of the Great Jubilee Year and in the light of the Vision-Mission Statement of the Philippine Church expressed during the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP-II) held 10 years ago. PCP-II envisioned the Church as a Church of authentic disciples of the Lord; a genuine community of believers; a participatory Church; an inculturated Church; and a Church of the Poor.

During the NPCCR, held from January 22 to 27 at the San Carlos Pastoral Formation Complex, delegates from all over the country sought to evaluate what has been done in the past ten years towards a renewal of the Church, analyze the present situation, and formulate a set of "doables" for the next few years. They discussed the present pastoral situation (social, economic, political, cultural, religious) and shared insights about how to address the situation.

A total of 369 delegates participated in the National Pastoral Consultation on Church Renewal, consisting of 85 bishops, 176 priests, 19 religious sisters, and 89 lay men and women. Their Message is addressed to all the Filipino people.



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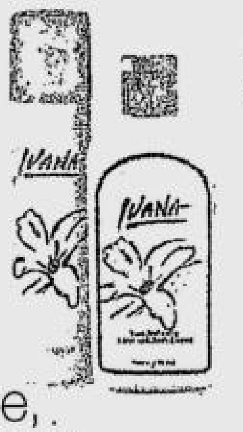

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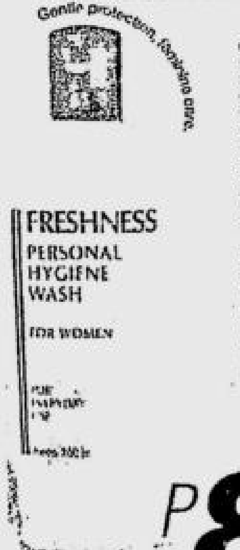

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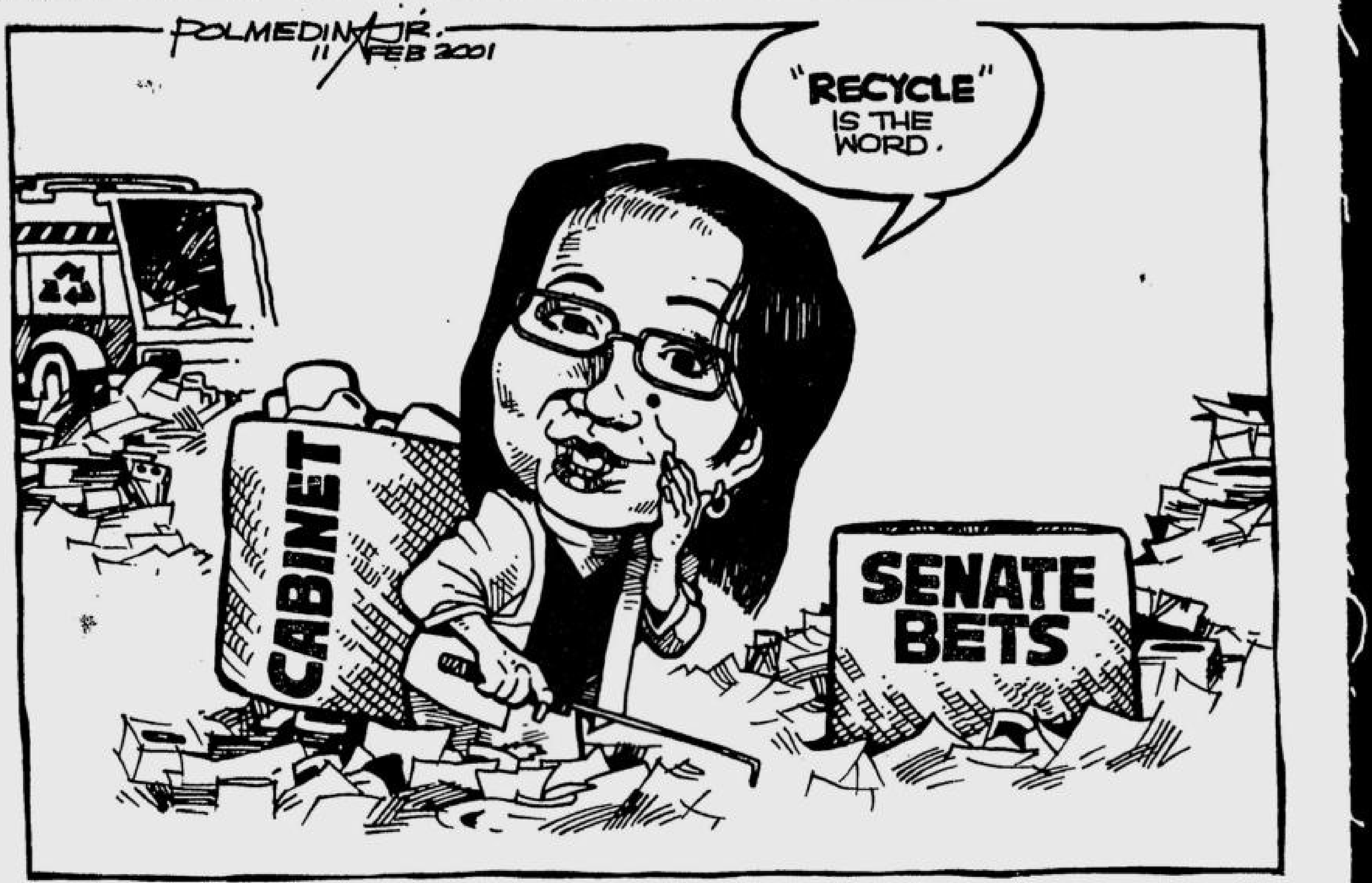


Gun control–now

EDITORIALS

THE RESULTS of a survey conducted by Pulse Asia should provide new impetus to gun control in the country. The survey of Filipinos 18 years and above last December shows that 83 percent favor a more restrictive gun policy. This means they would like to see only law enforcers and licensed private security guards, in uniform and on duty, authorized to carry guns in public places. In contrast, the survey finds that only 16 percent support liberal laws that allow people to carry firearms wherever they like.

The sentiment for a more restrictive gun policy cuts across regions, ages and socio-economic classes. It enjoys the widest support in urban Luzon (90 percent) and the least backing in rural Visayas (still very high at 71 percent). Eighty-six percent of Class A-B-C support it; 78 percent of Class E back it. It likewise enjoys strong support from various age groups (90 percent of seniors and 76 percent of those between 55 to 64 years old). In terms of educational attainment, preference for such a policy ranges from 78 percent of those who have finished elementary education to 86 percent of those who have gotten college degrees.

Considering the broad support for gun control, this is as good a time as any to restrict gun carrying. In fact, this may be the best time. The people have forced a change in government without bloodshed. Their spirit has triumphed against the forces of violence which guns and state power represent. The second spring for non-violence (the first was Edsa I) should be translated in forceful legislation to institutionalize peace and non-aggression.

To be sure, the previous administration did not make things easy for the cause of non-violence. It interpreted gun regulations liberally. There were even reports that in its death throes, when the country was on the brink of a civil war, it was ready to sign an order that would be tantamount to arming militias to defend it against the relentless Edsa wave.

The only silver lining in the lugubrious gun control record of the past administration was its crackdown on loose firearms. But the move did not come from a deliberate policy shift. It came as an adjunct to the all-out-war policy in Mindanao to flush out Muslim separatists and Abu Sayyaf bandits. The government stoked the fires of war and took a bellicose stand to improve its public credibility ratings.

The tightened regime on loose firearms did not improve a bit public safety and order. In fact, there was a steady decline in peace and order despite the government's strong rhetoric against lawlessness, a rhetoric that reached several decibels level when it decided to carry out prison executions and let loose the traffic of firearms in the wake of the Mindanao conflict.

Clearly a new tack is needed. We need fewer guns on the streets, not more.

Guns and Gloria

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should take advantage of widespread public approval for stricter gun control rules. She should seize the initiative by tightening regulations on firearms and even certifying a bill that will institutionalize the people's sentiment for a regime of peace to prevail over the land through more restricted arms bearing.

To be sure, the strong gun lobby will again check any moves to restrict gun use and carrying. But the lobby will become more and more costly and impractical as the same people who massed at Edsa and held rallies all over the country last month lend their collective voice to the overwhelming movement for enhanced gun control.

There should be no mincing the dangers posed by widespread firearms-bearing to public safety and order. Guns have the potential to maim and kill. They are not meant to be carried around like some badge of honor as the silly machos of the gun lobby believe. Many bar brawls and traffic altercations would have been less murderous if their protagonists did not have guns. The citizen and the tourist would feel a little more secure if there were one less hoodlum-looking personal bodyguard or inanely arrogant charlatan carrying these iron toys like cavemen carrying clubs of old.

The spiral of violence in Philippine society can be arrested by just one simple step: restrict the carrying of firearms.

New man at Finance

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT is significant that the very first appointment of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to her Cabinet was in favor of former Sen. Alberto G. Romulo as her finance secretary. It is equally noteworthy that, although there have been complaints against some of her other choices, not a single protest has been raised, as far as I know, against Romulo.

This is understandable because Secretary Romulo's record as a public servant is distinguished and unblemished. His experience in government, no less than his academic training (a commerce degree and a doctorate in civil law), eminently qualifies him for the demanding task entrusted to him as head of the finance department.

Although he has occupied public office both as an oppositionist and in the majority, he is not what is derisively called a traditional politician. He is not known as a backslapping horse-trader with ever ready but unreliable promises or loyalties. On the contrary, he has consistently stood by his principles, which has become a rare virtue these days as demonstrated only too well by the Craven Eleven. He is a specimen of what is generally admired as the Sincere Person.

I got to know Bert during the valiant days of the Unido, when its members used to meet at the Laurel Law Offices to plan the dictator's downfall. There was only a handful of them then, but what they lacked in numbers they made up in grit and a devotion to democracy and individual liberty. Speaker Laurel, Gerry Roxas, Doy, Eva Estrada Kalaw, Monching Mitra, S.P. Lopez—these were among the few who led the dauntless group that challenged Marcos and risked his anger.

Bert Romulo was one of the soldiers then. Like Orly Mercado, he was a relative newcomer during those fledging years but soon distinguished himself as a trustworthy recruit who could fight for the opposition like its hardier veterans. Among the few survivors elected in 1984 to the Batasang Pambansa despite the KBL juggernaut, he became the most articulate and knowledgeable critic of the profligate expenditures of the martial law regime. Before long, his colleagues were looking up to him for his expert advice and leadership on fiscal matters.

Bert is also especially remembered for his role in questioning the railroaded dismissal of the impeachment case against Ferdinand Marcos in 1985. In Romulo v. Yñiguez, 141 SCRA 263, he and other minority legislators demanded that the resolution to impeach the president be recalled from the archives for deliberation by the entire chamber. The petition was, of course, dismissed by the then Marcos-controlled Supreme Court. It was one of the many little straws, however, that would break the camel's back.

As a fitting reward for his yeoman service during the dictatorship, Bert was appointed budget secretary in the new administration under President Corazon Aquino. In 1987, he was elected to the Senate, where he served in various capacities, particularly as majority leader and chair of the committees on banks and accounts. Among the laws he authored or sponsored are the new Central Bank Act, the revised SSS Act, the Municipal Libraries Act and the Early Retirement Act. He was also a member of the Judicial and Bar Council representing Congress and was as strict with the recommendees of his colleagues as he was with the other applicants.

As friends, Bert and I have not always seen eye-to-eye. I cannot forget, for example, that he was one of the senators who voted to extend the RP-US bases treaty way back in 1991. I was disappointed in his stand and thought even Sen. Joseph Estrada had more sense in rejecting the agreement. Nevertheless, I still respected Bert's opinion. Had he run for reelection in 1998 (which was not allowed because of the senatorial two-term limit), I would have voted for him again.

Bert kept a low profile during his retirement to private life, but remained abreast of public affairs, on which he commented every so often. He called me up once in a while just to keep in touch and occasionally to concur with some of the views I had expressed in this column.

One issue that engaged Bert's attention was President Estrada's campaign to overhaul the Constitution in line with what he called "globalization." Bert vigorously opposed this. I remember one well-researched speech he delivered in which he refuted with facts and figures the administration line that most countries had progressed economically by opening their natural resources to foreigners. Bert's masterly demolition of that argument was like a *coup de grâce* to the moribund Concord, which soon expired by asphyxiation.

Secretary Romulo is a quiet person who does his work without fanfare, eschewing the publicity most government officials seek to remain in the limelight. Visibility is essential to survival in the world of politics, but Bert does not care much for popular acclaim. Silence is a stigma of uselessness on many elective officials, like some worthless members of the Senate now who have suddenly awakened from their stupor because they are running for reelection. It is not so with Romulo.

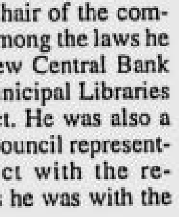
In Bert, self-effacement is considered a positive value by the general public, which is not easily deceived by the posturings of political windbags who sorely need a lesson in humility. It is a sign of the people's respect for him that he is not dumped among the blowhards in government whose main preoccupation is self-levitation.

Besides being an exemplary public official, Secretary Romulo is also a model husband and doting father. He is the convincing proof that a person can apportion his time to the various capacities demanding his attention and excel in every one of them. Proof of this is in the many awards he has received as a family man and for his achievements in the government, particularly the Senate.

I join the nation in wishing Secretary Romulo the full measure of success in his new position although there's no doubt about this, considering his tested competence, dedication and integrity. He is one fine official who will lend honor to the public service as a truly votive trust, and I'm sure he will discharge it with the ardor of a lover.

Blessed hearts

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE said that the heart is at the center of the chest, but it beats on the left side and that is why the heart is not always right! When we read about the Beatitudes in today's Gospel (Lk. 6, 17-26) somehow something is not right. How can the poor, the hungry and the weeping be blessed? In the eyes of the world, aren't the rich, the powerful and the elite the ones who are blessed? It is the heart that makes the difference. Only with the heart can you understand the Beatitudes, for only with the heart can you see rightly. With Valentine's Day just around the corner we raise again these questions: *May puso ka ba? May puso ka pa ba? Anong klaseng puso mayroon ka?*

* * *

About a year ago, we started writing this Sunday column in the INQUIRER. We have received many feedbacks from people who were "touched" and inspired. That's because we write from the heart. The heart speaks to another heart. That's how God speaks to us, too. He is supreme wisdom and intelligence, but He chooses to meet us not in the head but in the heart. He does not command us to love Him with all our head, but with all our heart!

* * *

The other thing about this column is that we write by hand. We have written two books already ("Moments" and "Shared Moments") and we write this Sunday column *mano-mano*. We still think with our pen. Labor of love, yes, but again nothing is laborious if the heart is light, right?

* * *

Hardly would the world take time and interest for the weak, the poor, the ugly, the righteous, the miserable and the losers. The world loves the rich, the powerful, the beautiful, the wise and the victorious. We hear in the Beatitudes the Good News of hope and encouragement that there is a place in God's heart for the little ones and the down-trodden and the righteous. God knows. God does not sleep. God sees the heart.

* * *

Let us remember in a special way today, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the sick people. They are the poor, the hungry, the weeping of whom the Beatitudes speak in a special way. A time of sickness is a time of tremendous grace. A bout with flu last week gave me the time to rest, reflect and recharge. People who are healthy hardly acknowledge their need for God, their need for love and care from others, their littleness and contingency. Sickness is also a special ministry because the vicarious suffering of a sick person is a tremendous source of grace and blessings for the person himself and for others. Suffering can be a beautiful offering.

Let us also remember today the people who care for the sick, who often go unnoticed and unappreciated. The Kingdom of God is theirs, too! And my personal appreciation is yours Doctors Semilla, Willy de la Cruz and Cora Amante for looking after my health all these years.

* * *

A friend from Vancouver, Jessie Corrales, has a pacemaker and he tells me that every time he says "I love you" to his wife Edna, he jokes that it's coming from the bottom of his metal heart! But, looking at the way Jess loves Edna, we can say that whatever heart you have, your heart must show itself in concrete acts of love, for that is the true language of the heart.

* * *

I must admit that I am a late convert to the world of computers and cell phones, and I am really amazed at what these can do for our well-being and even for our spirituality. We can literally "go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation" just by sending and passing on inspiring and heartwarming messages. The jokes uplift us, the marching orders moves us (Edsa II), the prayers and inspirational messages enlighten us. Let us welcome God in our cell phones and computers. That's technology with a heart.

* * *

Here's a text message I received about Valentine's Day as the time to remember not only the loves of our hearts but also the past loves who may have left us lonely and miserable. For the latter, the message says, let us hope that they too are lonely and miserable wherever they are on Valentine's Day!

* * *

Here's wishing you all a Happy Valentine's Day. Don't forget the King and Queen of all hearts. Don't forget to appreciate in a concrete way the people who are in your heart. And, don't forget to take good care of your heart, and to keep going for matters of the heart and the Beatitudes. To those of you out there who still believe in righteousness and goodness and principles of the heart, you who are poor, who hunger, who weep, who are hated, excluded and are insulted now, blessed are you! Rejoice and leap for joy, for "this world was never meant for one as beautiful as you"!

* * *

For those who would like to give comments on our column, and for those who may want to help our Filipino missionaries abroad, you may write to P.O. Box 1375, Manila or call us at 721-7457 or e-mail us at rpsvdmo@pworld.net.ph.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, thank You for giving me a heart that feels and that loves. Make my heart more like Your Sacred Heart and Mama Mary's immaculate heart. Amen.

The inside story of the Angara diary

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE INQUIRER obtained former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara's insider's account of the last two days (Jan. 19-20) in office of deposed President Estrada in the course of my search for material for a book I am writing about the fall of Estrada. The INQUIRER published exclusively Angara's diary in a three-part series on Feb. 4 to 6.

I wanted to know what was happening inside Malacañang Palace during those two days. Except for sketchy TV and radio reports, the public had no idea about what took place inside the Palace as negotiations went on for the transfer of power from Estrada to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The first person I approached was Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, head of the United Opposition's team of negotiators. We talked in the morning of Jan. 23 at a Quezon City restaurant. He was with Gen. Lisandro Abadia.

We first discussed the events behind the Jan. 19 defection of the Armed Forces from the Estrada administration and the transfer of their loyalty to Ms Macapagal. Before we could move on to the inside story of the transition negotiations, he received a call from Malacañang. He said he would give me another interview in the next few days. I rang on the appointed day to confirm whether the interview was going ahead. He begged to be excused because he had important meetings. He said he would ring me for an appointment. He never did.

In the evening of the same day, Jan. 23, I talked to Angara in a function room of the New World Hotel to get the story from the point of view of a Malacañang insider. He said he had taken notes during those two days. He had a 10-page draft which was merely an outline. Its title was "The Last Two Days of President Joseph Ejercito Estrada." He gave me annexes, including the draft of an executive order creating an ad hoc working committee to handle the crisis, the draft letter of resignation of Estrada prepared by the United Opposition, the first draft of the negotiating points prepared by Angara, the four points as agreed upon by the De Villa transition team and Angara's team, and the unsigned resignation letter of Estrada addressed to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella.

I asked questions to fill the gaps in the outline. The outline needed to be fleshed out with details about the human drama surrounding Estrada's departure.

Angara said he would rewrite the manuscript to include details. On Feb. 3, I received the clean copy titled, "The Final Days of President Joseph Estrada—An Insider's Account," together with pictures. He agreed to have the material published exclusively by the INQUIRER.

While I was waiting for the final manuscript, I was also waiting for a call from De Villa, which never came. My idea was to get a more complete picture of the events in the transfer of power—from Palace insiders, from the Macapagal transition team and from the streets.

So, upon receiving the Angara final manuscript, I gave the story to our editor in chief. That insider's story was an exclusive too good to miss. It was a story a journalist with enough respect for his craft could not afford to bury.

I never had an illusion that the story was told from Angara's point of view and, more importantly, I was aware that it was not a complete picture of those crucial two days. But in the search for a more complete picture of the truth, a starting point has to be made. Publishing the diary was such a starting point to which other sources—like De Villa, Jaime Cardinal Sin and even the Supreme Court—can react and supply the gaps—if they can find the time. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes is now writing his account of the events of Jan. 19-20.

The analogy that raced in my mind is that, if I had access to Hitler's notes on his last hours in the bunker near the Reichstag, I would have grabbed the material and would have given it to my editors for immediate publication. Disclosure of historical events is important as a starting point for the process of the discovery of truth. Truth is multi-dimensional and is discovered in stages. It comes about with the discovery of facts from different points of view, including those of the winners and losers in a political conflict.

For example, World War II and, nearer home, the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, continue to spur the writing of books, each constantly revising perspectives and facts of previous books and giving new flavor to these events. The study of Hitler continues to command scholarly studies that prove there has not been a definitive book about Hitler. One of the latest books on Hitler, a two-volume study by Ian Kershaw, seeks to answer the riddle why and how the rise of Hitler to absolute power became possible.

In the search for and in giving full dimension to the truth, I would expect that the publication of diaries, no matter how self-serving, sparks the writing of other diaries, filling gaps, supplying information that has been omitted either deliberately or by oversight, and providing opportunities for a balanced view of events. To me, this is the purpose of publishing the Angara diary. Angara never pretended his diary to be anything else but a one-sided view of events as he saw them and which other outsiders did not have the opportunity to witness.

Once I had turned over to the editors the Angara material, the responsibility and the judgment of how to present it in the newspaper passed on to the editors. It was out of the control of Angara, or any source of publishable material. If I were the editor, I would have done no less to give the story the prominence of a big discovery—a big scoop. After the publication of the story, some editors of foreign news journals told Angara they would have loved to take a first crack at the material. But journalism is extremely competitive and the writing of history is facilitated by this drive for the exclusive.

For the purposes of my book, the Angara account is inadequate. Other people's accounts are needed. The research continues.

Ka Popoy and the Chief

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT I remember most about Filemon "Popoy" Lagman is the time I didn't get to see him.

Lagman, not quite an above-ground figure at the time, was on some sort of media blitz, meeting with journalists to explain his reasons for leaving the Joma Sison-led CPP-NPA. A young woman called me at home and said Ka Popoy wanted to meet with me. I was to meet some operatives at a hotel then they were to accompany me to meet with the former head of the dreaded Alex Boncayao Brigade. Alas, my appointment with history would be derailed by a bad personal habit of being late for appointments. By the time I got to the hotel, a young woman was waiting for me only to relay the message that the others, and Ka Popoy, had gone ahead.

But that isn't the end of the story. Two days later, I heard the news that Lagman had been arrested by authorities allegedly as an attempt to calm the situation before the foreign heads of state arrived for the Apec meeting. With a jolt I realized that the arrest must have taken place shortly after our aborted meeting. It did cross my mind that Ka Popoy and his operatives might suspect that I had something to do with his arrest, but I brushed off the thought, and have had no reason to give in to my fears since.

* * *

I AM sure Ka Popoy was the least surprised at Tuesday's events. For much of his adult life, danger and violence, as well as the ever-present threat of arrest, were realities that he had to live with.

But from the stories I have heard about him, Lagman had the kind of foolhardy courage and obstinate belief in the rightness of his cause that often acts as a talisman against all threats. My second favorite story about him dates back to the days of the pre-impeachment anti-Erap rallies participated in by the broadest alliance of civil society groups since the anti-Marcos movement.

At this rally on Ayala Avenue, Lagman's Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) spearheaded a work stoppage and rally together with the Makati Business Club. Right in the heart of the country's premier business district, with laborers and office workers among the audience, joined by the leading lights of Philippine big business, Ka Popoy mounted the stage and, defying an informal agreement to keep their rhetoric toned down, began calling for a revolution and the overthrow of the ruling class. Comic Noel Trinidad, emceeing the rally, later pleaded: "Please, don't call for a revolution here. We're all cowards."

But that was Ka Popoy for you. Exasperating in his bull-headedness, but singularly dedicated to the cause of laborers' rights and the overhaul of Philippine society. I was more amused than anything else by the "Resign All" stance taken by the organizations he founded, even as they participated avidly in the "Erap Resign" campaign. Yet one had to give him grudging respect when, after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's swearing in, he foreswore blooming along with so many others during the *balimbing* season, and persisted in his call that, as the Sanlakas posters put it: "Erap's fall is the people's call, but Gloria is not the people's choice."

Whoever is responsible for his assassination took from us one of the most compelling, mysterious and indomitable figures in public life.

* * *

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. may not have gathered the same kind of frenzied buzz that greets movie stars and beauty queens who visit the INQUIRER offices. But befitting his exalted position, there was only a quiet but intense excitement surrounding his arrival, together with Justices Artemio Panganiban and Jose Vitug and their wives, at the INQUIRER building Tuesday.

We may have held ourselves back with extraordinary restraint, but you can bet we were all looking forward to having a picture taken with the INQUIRER's "Filipino of the Year," the man who, according to surveys, is the most trusted person in the country today.

Still, no matter how hard we tried to dangle the lure of "higher" office to the Chief Justice, Davide refused to be tempted. "I intend to retire from government service as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court," he declared. "I have no other plans beyond that."

In fact, when I expressed the opinion that a retired Chief Justice shouldn't even be practicing law, the "Chief" wholeheartedly agreed. "It brings with it a lot of complications," he said. "If you win a case, then people will say it was because the judge was afraid of you. If you lose, then your reputation is shattered."

* * *

THE CHIEF Justice revealed that even if the second envelope had been opened and the impeachment trial went on, it wouldn't have lasted much longer. "I for one would not have been able to make it to the end. My blood pressure was beginning to get erratic, and I could feel the strain on my health."

The Chief's "chief at home," his wife Gigi, says she could tell in the course of the hearings when her husband was beginning to lose his patience. "When he would sigh deeply, or bring his hands to his bowed head, I knew he was trying to check his temper," says Ms Davide, who is due to retire from her post as head of the local chapter of the UN Volunteer Association in a few months.

Ms Davide was abroad, attending a UN meeting and then joining a daughter in the United States for the birth of their ninth grandchild, when all hell broke loose over the second envelope. "I was frantically trying to get in touch with him but when we finally talked, he was quite calm about it," she recalls.

Clearly, the Chief Justice hasn't allowed all the adulation and praise to go to his head. When I asked him for an autograph, he readily obliged, signing it simply, "Jun."

People power and the law

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

NOT being a lawyer, I cannot say if it was wise for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to anchor her claim to the presidency on the theory that Joseph Ejercito Estrada had suffered a permanent disability. I think that doing so, in an attempt to satisfy the Constitution, is to revise history. It is to leave out of the narrative of her presidency the very factor that made her President, namely People Power.

The political reality is that Estrada was ousted from the presidency by the direct action of the Filipino people. He was removed from office extra-legally. The former president neither died nor was he mentally or physically incapacitated. He was not impeached, nor did he resign. In his own words, he left his office because of circumstances beyond his control. That's just a polite way of saying he was deposed. To say he is just on provisional leave is a delusion.

The Supreme Court justices saw that Estrada had lost control of the government after his Cabinet resigned and after the commanders of the Armed Forces and the police bowed to the people's will and manifested their withdrawal of support from the beleaguered president. Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. put it succinctly in a recent speech: "I heard the voice of millions of Filipinos expressing their legitimate grievance and asserting their sovereign will. I definitely witnessed the raw power of vigilance." His decision to administer the oath of office to Ms Macapagal in order to prevent a vacuum in the national leadership and to avert unnecessary violence was an act of judicial wisdom.

The country now has a functioning government under President Macapagal. The whole world recognizes the legitimacy of this government. The question whether Estrada is still president or not is not a "justiciable" issue but a political one. The proper tribunal in which to settle it is not a court of law, but in the hearts and minds of the Filipino nation.

The legal order of a society only reflects the state of its politics. Law is frozen politics in the sense that it embodies the results of the continuous competition and struggle among society's various interest groups.

Yet the law may often seem as if it stands among the gods, way above the messy conflicts of mortals. That is why, paradoxically, the law is sometimes invoked against political results. In the name of institutional stability, political reality is rejected. The law becomes an instrument for defending a social order based on obsolete politics.

Yet we know that some of the most difficult problems of society often cannot be solved within the existing legal framework. It takes sustained extra-parliamentary pressure to shake up institutions. I think we Filipinos are lucky to have stumbled upon people power as a means of correcting the major dysfunctional consequences of borrowed institutions. Even as we try to master them, we do not allow our nation to be imprisoned by their logic. In people power, we have found a tool that is far more effective than piecemeal pressure politics and far more powerful than amending a constitution.

But we must be alert to the dangers of people power. Demagogues and military adventurers may also simulate their own people power. Direct action by the people has the potential of opening up the entire horizon of political possibility. One never knows where a crowd will go or what it will do when it is already out in the streets. The chances are great that it may not stay within the parameters of its predetermined objectives.

People Power II could have dissolved the existing Constitution, abolished Congress and declared a revolutionary government—just like People Power I. It could have declared all government positions vacant and installed a provisional government rather than allow the Vice President to form a government. But it did none of these. After deposing an undesirable president, it instinctively reined itself and followed the Constitution. Though limited in its objectives, People Power II was bound by a stronger consensus than its predecessor was. The moral sentiments that united it were strong enough to prevent its hijacking by adventurous individuals or groups with hidden agendas.

The main problem of people power is how to make its presence felt in the conduct of the government to which it gave birth. Because of its movement character, it has no permanent figures or structures to oversee the realization of its goals. In the race to political normalization, the new government may find itself slowly being captured by the very forces that people power sought to marginalize, e.g. corrupt businessmen and traditional politicians. Soon such elements begin to deck themselves in the colors of people power, appropriating its symbols and its discourse.

Ironically, people power cannot criticize the government without sounding as if it is also confessing a mistake. Thus it must learn to fight for its vision both outside as well as inside the corridors of power. It must be active in elections even if this is not its preferred terrain. It must bring its activism into the bureaucracy. It must constantly renew its links and support kindred spirits who have made the transition from the streets to the government. It must gather its forces regularly and form its own assessment of the state of politics.

Above all it must strive to translate its political gains into reform-minded legislation. By this alone can it meaningfully change the order of things.

* * *

Comments are welcome at rdavid@pacific.net.ph

A quick take at the Macapagal presidency after three weeks

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

COMMUNIST Party of the Philippines head Jose Ma. Sison's statement posted at the National Democratic Front's website, and which we received by e-mail Friday, provides us with an opportunity to assess President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's administration so far. Sentences in quotes and in bold letters are Sison's. Those in regular font, ours.

"There are already strong manifestations that the Arroyo regime is all set to become as bad as the Estrada regime or even worse," Sison claims. He then lists the "strong manifestations":

"1. Estrada is not being arrested for plunder. The biggest cronies of Marcos and Estrada, Eduardo Cojuangco and Lucio Tan, have been openly embraced by Mrs. Macapagal-Arroyo. Shady deals are reportedly being transacted through her husband, Mike Arroyo. The recent photograph of Lucio Tan between Gloria and Mike Arroyo is emblematic of continuing corruption."

Our comments: President Macapagal's justice secretary, Hernando Perez, so far seems determined to pursue plunder charges against Estrada. Rep. Joker Arroyo and the former panel of prosecutors in the trial are coming out almost every day with new evidence against Estrada. Unfortunately, hers isn't a revolutionary government and all it can do is rely on the Department of Justice. However, there are obviously big questions here. Does the department have enough lawyers? Is it incorruptible?

On Tan and Cojuangco, the Ramos administration for six years and using a group of private lawyers tried to pin the two down. They couldn't.

"2. Mrs. Macapagal-Arroyo has surrounded herself with a military cordon sanitaire, with Gen. Renato de Villa in control of the powerful Office of the Executive Secretary. The same generals, like AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes, who collaborated with Estrada in carrying out the all-out war policy, are working closely with her. Militarism is becoming blatant, with Mrs. Macapagal-Arroyo herself urging military officers to reduce or eradicate the revolutionary forces."

Our comments: For starters, we no longer, as we did in our teenage years, subscribe to the theory that military men are an entirely different species of life incapable of being imbued with the same patriotism communists have. After all, one of Reyes' confidantes, and now military intelligence chief, is the mild-mannered Col. Victor Corpus, one of Sison's closest friends in the 1970s who spent 10 years in Marcos' prisons.

We haven't heard that Ms Macapagal has ordered an all-out attack against the "revolutionary" forces. If there's a cordon sanitaire around President Macapagal, four are civilians: Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, Chief of Staff Renato Corona, PMS Chief Vicky Garchitorena and Presidential Adviser on Regional Development Paul Dominguez.

"3. The new regime, especially Executive Secretary De Villa, is deaf to the pleas of human rights organizations, churches and the people for the release of the political prisoners. The policy of holding on to hundreds of political prisoners is poisoning the atmosphere for a possible resumption of the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations."

Our comments: We agree that President Macapagal indeed should make a move to show she's a champion of human rights and that she wants peace in the land by ordering the release of all political prisoners, as Cory did right after People Power I.

There's one problem here though. With the repeal of the Anti-Subversion Law in the late 1980s, the Ramos administration adopted a policy of charging political insurgents with criminal offenses. NPA guerrillas have been charged not with subversion but with other crimes such as illegal possession of firearms and murder. Ms Macapagal should set up a high-level committee, headed by a respected personality such as former Sen. Jovito Salonga, to determine who are the political prisoners and who are the criminals.

"4. The new regime is continuing Estrada's repressive policy. It has publicly announced that it is stopping the all-out war policy and wishing the resumption of the peace negotiations. But Oplan Makabayan is still being implemented."

Our comments: After three weeks, can one really conclude that a repressive policy is in place? Give us a break. We agree though with another of Sison's points here. Again as Cory did after People Power I, Ms Macapagal should unilaterally announce a ceasefire with the NDF, and schedule peace talks. There's a bit of a problem here: Sison's guerrillas still hold two military hostages.

"5. The new regime has a policy of exclusion and growing hostility toward even the legal patriotic and progressive forces of the workers, peasants, youth, women and intelligentsia that made a major and decisive contribution to the overthrow of the Estrada regime. A US-directed scheme of psychological warfare and repression against their leaders and organizations is at work."

Our comments: This is a point plucked from Sison's 1970s bag of slogans. However, President Macapagal must undertake initiatives to give the "progressive forces" a role in nation-building. The Left is evolving from a single-minded dream of overthrowing the state by force, but there's no place for them. Socialist Norberto Gonzales was appointed presidential assistant on special concerns. Why not appoint Satur Ocampo or Teddy Casiño as presidential assistant for poverty eradication, or something like that?

"6. The Macapagal-Arroyo regime echoes the pro-poor demagoguery of the fallen Estrada but in fact its policies and actions hew to the imperialist line of 'free market' globalization and further victimize the people, especially the workers and peasants."

Our comment: Despite "Seattle," we still think that gone are the days when the "free market" is all just an imperialist ploy. "Seattle's" real target is not the free-market system itself, but global companies which are able to take undue advantage of globalization.

What is in fact emerging as the biggest player now in a global free-trade world is a country which avowed Marxists established and still—in a way—rule: the People's Republic of China. Two nations which have insulated themselves against the world "free market" are Cuba and North Korea. Even the Philippines with all its corruption, its Marcoses and Estradas, because of its entrance into the global market in the last two decades, is better off than these two countries.

President Macapagal has promised that her administration will ensure that "safety nets"—now renamed "bridging mechanisms"—are in place to alleviate the adverse impact of globalization. We're still waiting to see what forms these will take though.

And after all, if not for globalization, Sison wouldn't have been able to e-mail his statement to us from Utrecht. Neither would the NDF have its website (http://members.nbci.com/natdemfront), hosted by the Internet unit of the US capitalist firm NBC. (The host of the NDF's website carries this ad: "Drive targeted traffic to your site by taking advantage of NBCi's new website promotion service!")

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

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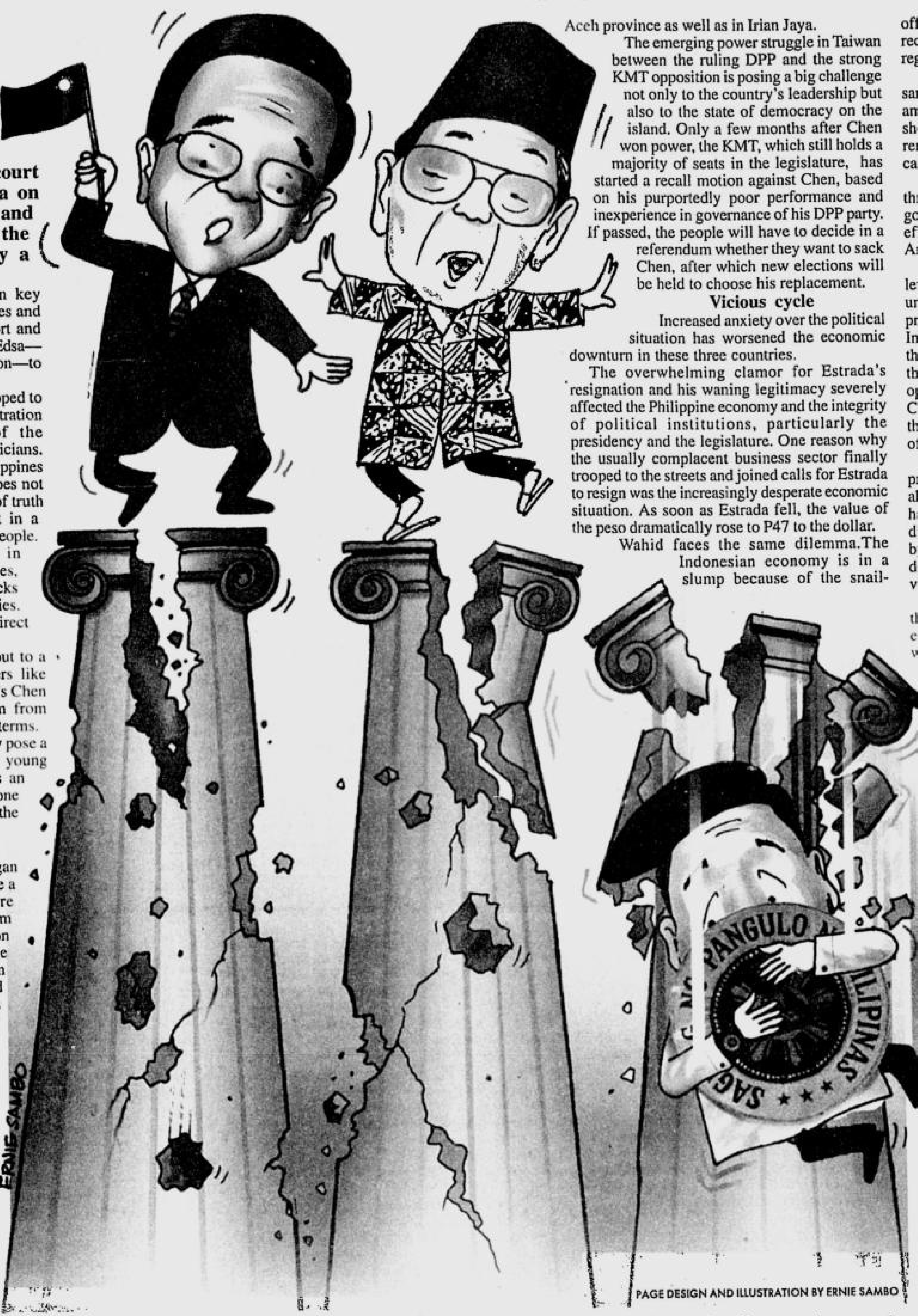
LEADERSHIP IN CRISIS

Lessons for Asia's struggling democracies

BY MARY GRACE P. MIRANDILLA
AND LIEZL FORMILLEZA



PAGE DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION BY ERNIE SAMBO

AN UNCOMMON historical event has once again unfolded in the Philippines. Following the collapse of the impeachment court trying President Joseph Estrada on charges of bribery, corruption and violation of the Constitution, the populist leader was ousted by a people's uprising on Jan. 20.

The final blow was delivered when key members of his Cabinet, the Armed Forces and the national police withdrew their support and joined the million-strong people's forces at Edsa—the site of the 1986 People Power Revolution—to demand his immediate resignation.

Filipinos from all walks of life had trooped to the streets to express their outrage and frustration over the apparent manipulation of the impeachment trial by pro-Estrada politicians. Through a direct act of the people, the Philippines has proven once again that democracy does not and will never tolerate the undermining of truth and justice. It is also living proof that in a democracy, ultimate power rests with the people.

The Philippine experience in democratization, with all its idiosyncracies, is in some way a reflection of the setbacks threatening Asia's struggling democracies. It is also a test of the extent to which direct democracy can be exercised.

Democracy in Asia is indeed being put to a test when democratically elected leaders like Estrada, Wahid of Indonesia and Taiwan's Chen Shui-bian face attempts to unseat them from power before they have served out their terms.

While the surge of political crises may pose a threat to the political stability of these young democracies, it should also be seen as an opportunity to gauge how far Asia has gone in democratization and as a challenge to the resilience of democracy in the region.

Young and fragile

The wave of democratization that began in Asia during the 1980s is proving to be a delicate process for a region where traditional political culture puts a premium on the person in power rather than on institutions. In the Asian experience, the extent of power and influence that certain political figures are allowed to wield reflects how even democratic institutions and processes can be undermined for the advantage of a few individuals.

Major political change occurred in the Philippines through a popular uprising that toppled the Marcos regime in 1986 and restored democracy after 20 years of martial rule. A new Constitution ratified in 1987 instituted political reform that put a check on the powers of the executive.

The government that replaced the repressive Marcos regime, although plagued by successive coup attempts, restored the legitimacy of Congress and the judiciary. It was also during this period that civil society organizations began to play a more active role in ensuring good governance.

In the first post-martial law election, a former military general became President, putting economic development on his main agenda. In 1998, Estrada, the one-time movie actor who became quite popular because of his "pro-poor" stance, was elected to the highest position in the land. But not quite three years later, he was overthrown from power. President Macapagal-Arroyo now faces the formidable task of seeing the country through one of the worst political and economic crises in its history.

Indonesia's transition to democracy came much later. In the three decades of authoritarian rule under Suharto, a political culture developed around the suppression of democratic institutions and processes. Suharto entrenched the role of the military in political life in order to prolong his absolute control.

Like Marcos and Estrada, he used his position to grant favors to close allies and friends in business and to enrich members of his family. He was forced to relinquish power in 1998 after a nationwide protest movement calling for him to step down. The elections that followed in 1999 elevated Abdurrahman Wahid to the presidency.

Challenges to leadership

As in Indonesia, democracy in Taiwan is also in its nascent stages. For a long time until 1987, Taiwan was under a form of martial rule with only one political party to speak of—the Kuomintang (KMT)—which had monopolized political control since 1945. Economic development, social progress, and influence from the United States, as well as a desire to evade unification with mainland China, served as the main catalysts for democratic change in Taiwan.

A strong local government enhanced the process of democratization, which in turn strengthened local nationalism. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), founded in 1986, became the leading opposition party. When the DPP candidate, Chen Shui-bian, won the presidency in 2000, a minority became the ruling party for the first time in Taiwan's history.

Leadership plays a crucial role in democratization. Without a strong leader determined to see through democratic changes, the prospects for democratization are bleak. But this high regard for the individual in a position of power has also worked against democratization in many Asian systems, leading to such practices as cronyism, nepotism, graft and corruption.

It is increasingly apparent in the recent turn of events in the Philippines, Indonesia and Taiwan, that they have yet to take democracy a step further from the election process to the actual exercise of democratic values, such as legitimacy, the rule of law, accountability and transparency. It is clear that politicians still see democratic institutions primarily as a source of power and not as tools for effective governance.

Although Estrada won the presidency with an overwhelming popular vote, he did not bring anything with him but his popular "pro-poor" stance and his personal charisma, which did not prove to be enough to run a government.

Despite his "pro-poor" pronouncements, he had an extravagant lifestyle, surrounded himself with rich friends and drinking buddies and flaunted his paramours and mistresses. In only 31 months in office, he managed to grant a huge amount of favors to his close friends, associates and family members. The illegal gambling payoffs scandal that precipitated his downfall was an indication of this. He is now facing charges of bribery, graft and plunder.

Within his first year, Wahid has come under fire for his erratic decision-making, especially in matters regarding the sharing of political power with his vice president, Megawati Sukarnoputri. The Golkar-dominated legislature, also known as the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), has threatened to unseat him for his perceived administrative incompetence.

Unlike Estrada's, however, Wahid's problems are more daunting. He is faced with the task of restoring democratic rule in Indonesia, being its first democratically elected president after Suharto. As in post-Edsa Philippines, he faces a very serious problem of reasserting civilian rule over a military that had become used to a political role.

There are signs that Indonesia is on the brink of political chaos. Religious and ethnic tensions have claimed many lives in the Maluku group of islands, and calls for independence ring loudly in Aceh province as well as in Irian Jaya.

The emerging power struggle in Taiwan between the ruling DPP and the strong KMT opposition is posing a big challenge not only to the country's leadership but also to the state of democracy on the island. Only a few months after Chen won power, the KMT, which still holds a majority of seats in the legislature, has started a recall motion against Chen, based on his purportedly poor performance and inexperience in governance of his DPP party. If passed, the people will have to decide in a referendum whether they want to sack Chen, after which new elections will be held to choose his replacement.

Vicious cycle

Increased anxiety over the political situation has worsened the economic downturn in these three countries.

The overwhelming clamor for Estrada's resignation and his waning legitimacy severely affected the Philippine economy and the integrity of political institutions, particularly the presidency and the legislature. One reason why the usually complacent business sector finally trooped to the streets and joined calls for Estrada to resign was the increasingly desperate economic situation. As soon as Estrada fell, the value of the peso dramatically rose to P47 to the dollar.

Wahid faces the same dilemma. The Indonesian economy is in a slump because of the snail-paced implementation of long-overdue economic reforms. This could further hurt his legitimacy.

> Having had a long and successful history of overturning a dictatorial and abusive regime, popular protest in the Philippines is able to claim legitimacy and demonstrate maturity in defining its role vis-a-vis other political institutions.

In Taiwan, the spillover of the political crisis into the economy is also taking its toll. Taiwan's stock market lost 40 percent of its value in October. The island has since experienced a capital outflow of US$10 billion. For Chen, the economic decline all the more reinforces doubts about his capacity to manage the country's affairs.

The political crises in these countries underscore the issues that threaten the future of democracy in the region.

Patronage politics is one such major challenge. To lessen, if not eradicate this threat, it is important to strike a balance between personal political interest and accountability to the people. Because of their crucial check-and-balance role, the legislative and the judiciary should not be beholden to the executive.

Threats to democracy

In the Philippines, patronage politics undermined democratic institutions for the advantage of a privileged few. It was clear, for instance, how partisanship and political debts worked against a fair and transparent impeachment process.

Patronage politics is also well-entrenched in the Indonesian system, making it extremely difficult for Wahid or any leader to jumpstart political reform. Wahid himself has been tainted with accusations that he gave some of his close associates choice government contracts.

Another problem facing his government is the prosecution of Suharto, his family and cronies. Some analysts say the MPR, particularly Golkar party members, are being used by the pro-Suharto camp to sow political instability. The furor in the legislative assembly, over instituting harsher methods to keep the President's power in check is indeed evidence of this.

In Taiwan, the drastic proposition by the KMT to recall Chen Shui-bian is seen by some to be politically motivated. While Taiwan's economic performance for the past several months has not been good, the question may well be asked whether this was a result of Chen's incompetence or of the KMT's efforts to undermine the new government. The KMT's call to get Chen out of office this early using the democratic process of recall is seen by others as a desperate bid to regain power.

Unlike Estrada, Chen does not suffer from the same overwhelming lack of confidence in his rule among Taiwan's population. A recent survey showed that the people do not favor recall, so it remains to be seen how much support the KMT can muster for its recall proposition.

A politicized military also presents a potential threat to democratic rule. In Indonesia, some government troops have figured in destabilization efforts in the far-flung provinces, despite the Army's current weakened state.

Although military intervention at the national level is not feasible at the moment, misguided or unguided interventions at the local level may prove to be more destabilizing and costly for Indonesia's fledgling democracy. In the case of the Philippines, the defection of the military and the national police served to strengthen the opposition because they chose to uphold the Constitution rather than intervene or threaten the constitutional right and democratic exercise of popular protest.

The role of civil society, manifested in popular protest actions or the parliament of the streets, is also highlighted in times of political crises. Having had a long and successful history of overturning dictatorship in the Philippines, popular protest by Filipinos is able to claim legitimacy and demonstrate maturity in defining its role vis-à-vis other political institutions.

In Indonesia, there appears to be a real danger that unorganized groups that do not fully trust existing democratic mechanisms and institutions will resort to political violence. Citizens long suppressed by the Suharto regime are now exercising their democratic rights in ways that may prove inimical to the country's stability.

The way forward

The political crises currently sweeping the region indicate that the road to democracy is indeed difficult, but not impossible. The people of Asia will have to put in their fair share of work in strengthening existing democratic mechanisms that will guide them through political reforms.

The impeachment trial in itself was a good test of maturity for Philippine democracy. Many, even the staunchest oppositionists, put their faith in the impeachment process.

Constitutional reform in Indonesia also seems promising. Since October 1999, the process of "reconstituting" the Constitution has been quite open, leaving room for debate and some amount of public consultation. It is hoped that the proposed amendments will be significant enough to ease some of the problems plaguing Indonesian politics.

Wahid for his part will need to exercise control over the military to restore order in violent hot spots like Aceh and the Malukus.

In Taiwan, critics and supporters from both sides say that Chen Shui-bian must be more flexible in engaging the opposition to ensure better coordination in his administration. The opposition, on the other hand, should take a more cooperative stance in dealing with the Chen government. Chen, through public apologies, has shown that he is keen on taking some steps to placate the public and the opposition.

Fundamental rule

The fate of democracy now hangs on how the governments and peoples of these three Asian countries will survive these political crises. One fundamental rule of democracy is respect for results of elections that are conducted freely and fairly. Each of the leaders in these three countries came into power through such a process. While the processes of recall and impeachment may be as democratic as the process of electing a leader, care should be taken that these democratic mechanisms are not abused by political opportunists or even popular movements.

Impeachment of a democratically elected leader should be employed only as a last resort against someone who is corrupt, tyrannical or has committed a serious criminal offense. Some believe that Chen Shui-bian is none of these.

He is seen as a convenient target of people wanting to reverse the electoral result because it does not benefit them. Wahid's competence may be in question, but is it a sufficient reason to consider a recall or impeachment, given the possible consequences for Indonesia's fragile political balance?

In the case of Estrada, it was not just his incompetence but his personal integrity and moral authority that were put in question. Under his leadership, the whole structure of government became vulnerable and suspect, losing legitimacy and support from the widest sectors of the population, and the international community.

The good thing about democracy is that it gives people the constitutional right and duty to be vigilant and critical of government. This is not immune from abuse, however. Self-serving politicians manipulate democratic institutions. Corrupt individuals hiding behind a cloak of vigilance and democratic ideals can threaten democratization in Asia. Unless they are exposed, as in the aborted Estrada impeachment trial, democracy will not prosper.

The authors are researchers in the Philippine-China Development Research Center.

Pimentel vows to block Gordon appointment

BY J. JAVELLANA

SENATE President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday vowed to block the confirmation of Tourism Secretary Richard "Dick" Gordon when his appointment is submitted to the bicameral Commission on Appointments.

Pimentel said Gordon did not deserve the position because of "many pending cases with the Ombudsman."

Gordon was flabbergasted by Pimentel's statement aired from Zamboanga City over his regular Saturday program on RMN radio station.

"I just came from Intramuros. We walked up and down (the historic site) even when it was raining. We picked up the litter there, we organized the pedicab (tricycle) people and then I hear this news. What a way to dampen one's enthusiasm. I hope they (accusers) are having a good weekend," Gordon said when the INQUIRER asked for a reaction.

Pimentel said President Macapagal-Arroyo appointees with pending cases should not expect to pass through the CA, which is headed by the Senate president.

"Those appointees with pending cases, I will object to their confirmation. It does not look good that a Cabinet secretary is facing charges and he is entrusted with big responsibilities," Pimentel said.

He singled out Gordon, saying he should not be confirmed because of pending graft cases in the Ombudsman in connection with alleged irregularities when he was chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

He said he had asked Presidential Management Staff chief Victoria Garchitorena to relay the message to the President, adding it would be embarrassing if an appointee was confirmed in the CA, only to be convicted later.

"I have great respect (for Pimentel) but I hope he doesn't shoot from the hips," Gordon said.

He said there were cases of harassment filed against him by Olongapo City judge Gualberto de Lallana, who he said was close to Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., his political rival.

"The cases have been dismissed. No case has ever been filed (against me) in the Sandiganbayan," Gordon said.

Asked what he intended to do about Pimentel's opposition, he said: "What can I do? They probably don't want a very aggressive person. If they want to judge me on the basis of harassment, fine. I did not ask for this position."

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- B.S. Pharmacy
- Doctor of Optometry
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April 20, 8:00-11:00 AM (3rd batch)

For details, visit the Office of the Dean or Associate Dean, UE College of Dentistry, 2219 C. M. Recto Ave. or Dalupan St., Manila, or call up tel. no. 735-54-71 loc. 327 or 328

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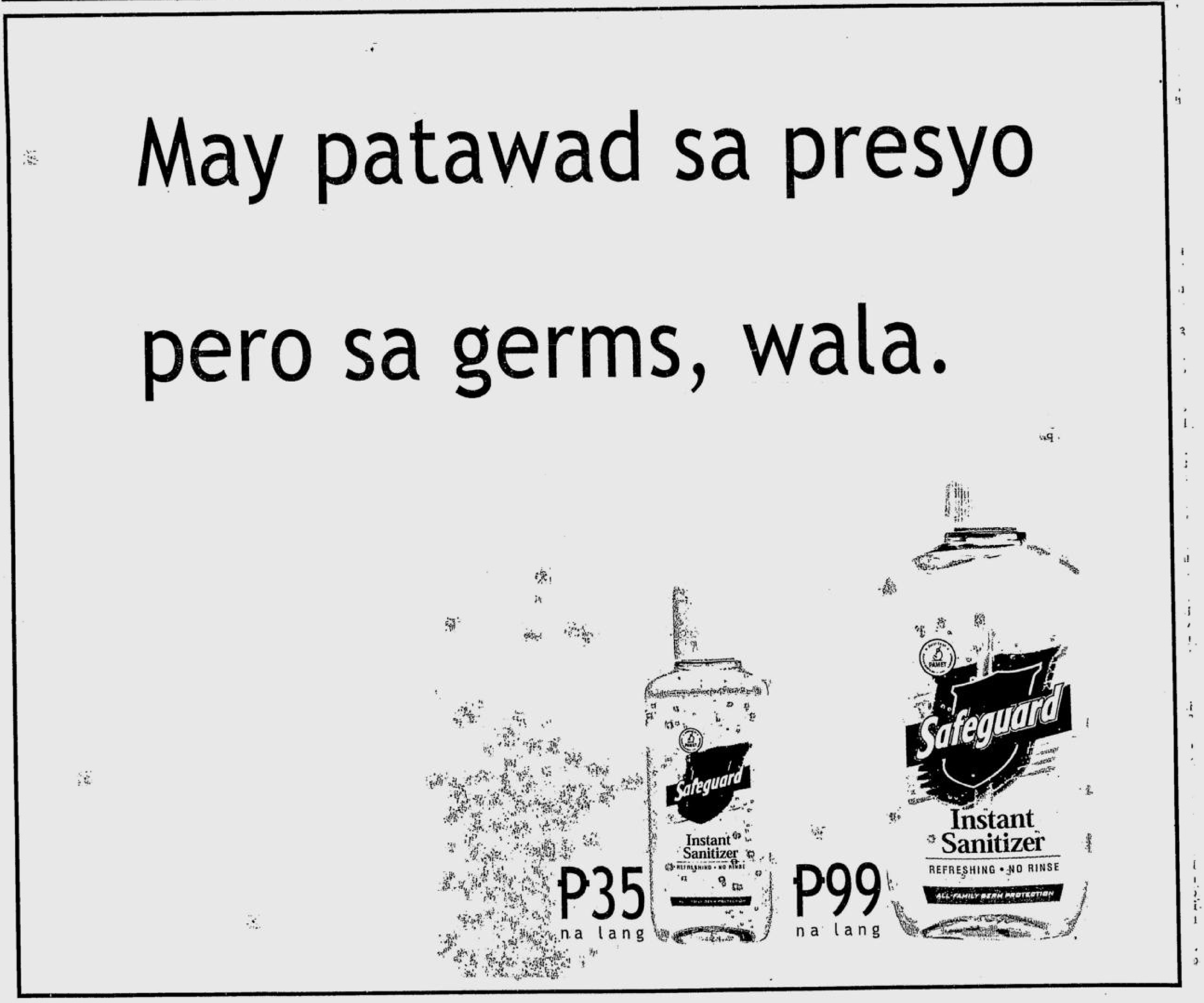

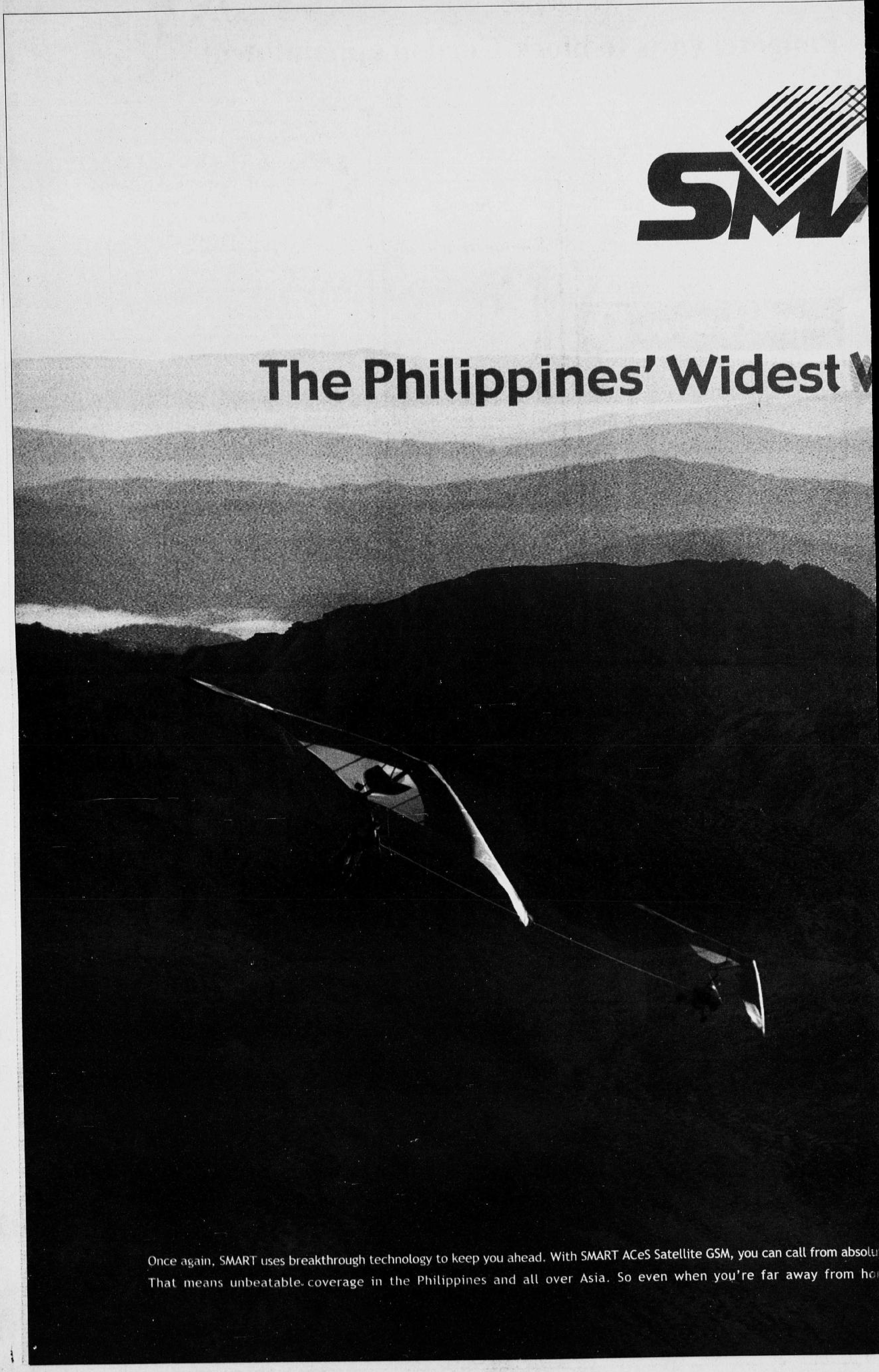
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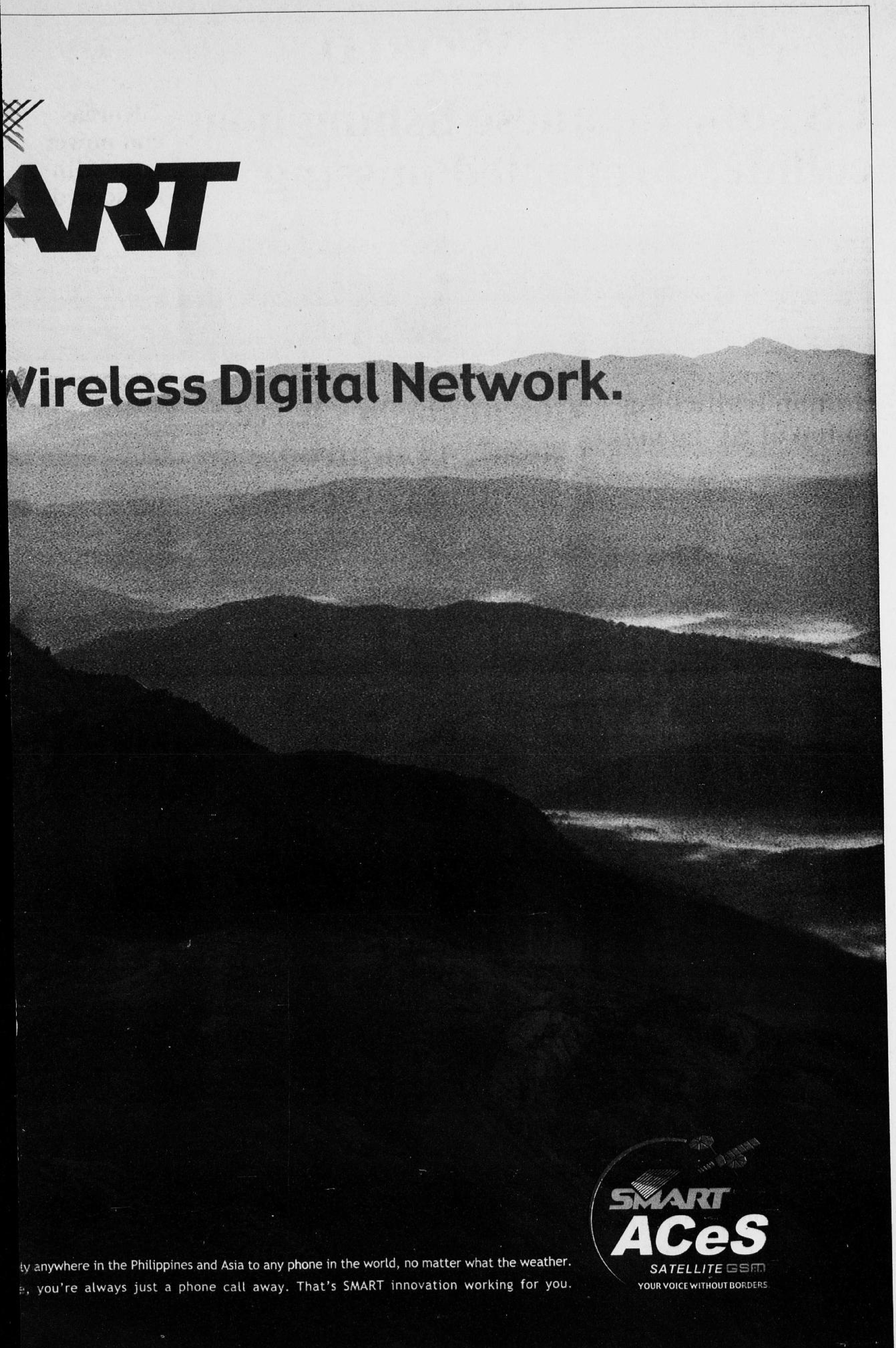

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

US sub, Japanese fishing boat collide; 9 reported missing

HONOLULU—A US Navy submarine collided with a Japanese fishing boat carrying high school students learning to fish, and nine people were missing after the boat sank 14 km off Oahu on Friday.

Twenty-six survivors who had huddled in three life rafts were brought to shore by the Coast Guard. Navy and Coast Guard vessels were searching for the missing people.

The 108-meter USS Greeneville was on routine patrol south of Oahu when it surfaced about 1:45 p.m. and its stern collided with the fishing boat, said Lt. Cmdr. Jane Campbell, spokesperson for Commander Navy Base, Pearl Harbor.

The Coast Guard identified the boat as the Ehime Maru, a 54-meter boat.

The boat carried 20 crew members, plus two teachers and 13 students from the Uwajima Fisheries High School in the southwestern Japanese prefecture (state) of Ehime, 675 km southwest of Tokyo.

The boat sank quickly, Coast Guard Petty Officer Chris Johnson said. The survivors were rescued by a Coast Guard utility boat and a smaller rubber inflatable boat, he said. They were taken to the Coast Guard station at Honolulu Harbor's Sand Island. Some walked off on their own; others were carried on stretchers and covered in blankets.

Coast Guard spokesperson Lt. Greg Fondan said none appeared to be seriously injured. A wounded shoulder appeared to be the worst injury, he said.

Twelve survivors were taken to local hospitals for treatment of minor injuries while 14 were cared for at the Coast Guard base, including showers to wash off diesel fuel, he said.

Petty Officer Thomas Kron, who was on the Coast Guard patrol boat, said the survivors were wet and soaked with diesel fuel that spilled when the boat sank.

"They seemed like they were in shock. They were fatigued by the time we got there. Some of them were seasick and some of them were glad to see us," he said. *AP*

AP

A SURVIVOR from the Japanese fishing boat that collided with a US submarine about nine kilometers off Honolulu harbor, is assisted by US Coast Guard personnel onboard a rescue vessel, Feb. 9, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

2 Koreas end power talks with no accord

SEOUL—Talks aimed at providing North Korea with South Korean electricity broke down on Saturday, delaying an unprecedented survey of the energy-starved North's power industry by experts from the South.

The two Koreas had earlier agreed to conduct a joint survey by the end of this month as a precondition for South Korea's considering energy assistance for its communist neighbor.

Energy shortages in North Korea are so severe that visitors have reported seeing many homes and buildings without electricity or heating during the winter, even in its showcase capital, Pyongyang.

Three days of talks in Pyongyang broke down over demands by North Korean negotiators who wanted to tap South Korea's power supply quickly while limiting South Korean experts' access to its energy industry, according to pool reports by visiting South Korean journalists.

Both sides are eyeing dates for a new round of talks to negotiate terms of the proposed survey. South Korea proposed that they resume early next month.

In December, North Korea asked its wealthy neighbor to provide it with 500,000 kilowatts of electricity.

Pyongyang dangled the prospect of an unprecedented glimpse of its infrastructure by agreeing to a joint survey of its power system.

During this week's talks, however, North Korea asked South Korea to send electricity across the border after a only limited survey. Concerned about the costs of sharing its power, South Korean negotiators insisted that the sides conduct a more complete survey of the North's energy situation. *AP*

Human trafficking on top of EU agenda

STOCKHOLM—The burgeoning problem of organized traffic in human beings, particularly women and children for work and sex exploitation, was atop the agenda of a meeting of EU justice and home affairs ministers here Friday.

Sweden, hosting its first such meeting in its first rotating EU presidency since joining the union in 1995, is particularly sensitive to what one official termed "this modern version of slavery."

After ruminating over the pros and cons of a common EU asylum and immigration policy on Thursday, the ministers were to devote the second part of the two-day informal session to reports by the European Commission and by the Italian Parliament's anti-Mafia Commission.

Humans, particularly women and children, "are considered like merchandize, subjected to violence, blackmail and reduced to slavery," said the Italian report.

Proposals put forward by the EU commission, said Justice and Home Affairs Commissioner Antonio Vitorino, "will be an important step toward eradicating from Europe the unscrupulous practices of trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children.

"It is appalling," he said, "that in the Europe of the 21st century such barbaric practices are still widespread, even increasing."

Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou, co-author of the commission report, said the EU was aiming "to bring greater visibility to these modern forms of slavery."

Estimates show "between 700,000 and two million women and girls each year are subjected to trafficking worldwide," she said, some 500,000 of them in the EU. *AFP*

Violent clashes leave 1 dead, 44 injured in central Gaza Strip

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Violent clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians Friday, including a gunfight, left one dead and 44 injured, after a night of some of the worst fighting in weeks.

Ayman Abu Hula, 16, died at the Shifa hospital in Gaza City afternoon after being shot in the chest earlier in the day by Israeli soldiers at Deir al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip, hospital sources said.

He was farming on his land when Israeli soldiers fired upon him, his family said, adding that Israeli tanks are stationed on neighboring property.

His death raises the toll for the four-month wave of violence to 397: 331 Palestinians, one German, 13 Israeli Arabs and 52 other Israelis.

Meanwhile, on a "day of rage" called for by a coalition of 13 Palestinian groups, including Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, Israeli soldiers shot at youths who threw stones at them after a protest march of some 1,500 people following afternoon prayers in Ramallah, witnesses and medical officials said.

An intense gunfight between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers—who fired tank-mounted weapons—also rang out Friday near an Israeli checkpoint on the northern edge of Ramallah for the first time there in six weeks.

Twenty-four Palestinians were injured in Ramallah, including eight who were shot with live rounds, hospital officials said.

Also in Ramallah, Israeli soldiers shot French photographer Laurent Van Derstock in the leg with a live bullet.

Van Derstock, who works for the Gamma photographic agency, was taken to a Ramallah hospital where he was described as in stable condition.

An Israeli Army spokesperson said he did not know how Van Derstock was wounded.

The clashes and gunfight in Ramallah followed a night that saw the Israeli Army fire heavy machineguns on the Palestinian-run area, lightly injuring seven people, medical officials said. *AFP*

AFTERMATH

REUTERS

This photograph showing the aftermath of a bomb attack in a Moscow underground station taken Aug. 8, 2000, won first place in the Spot News Singles in the World Press Photo Award Feb. 9.

Commandos storm cop station; 10 killed

SRINAGAR, India—Indian commandos Saturday gained control of the main police station in the Kashmiri city of Srinagar after Muslim militants stormed the complex in a daring raid which left at least 10 people dead.

Troops launched an assault on the compound late Friday and secured the main control room where a number of policemen were hiding from the militants, a senior police official said.

"Eight policemen, one militant and one unidentified person so far have been killed and their bodies recovered," a senior Kashmir police official said.

However, Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah told the Press Trust of India that four militants had been confirmed dead.

The police chief said he believed only two militants had been able to enter the heavily guarded complex in the city center in a daring suicide raid on Friday evening, but that a full sweep of the building was still going on.

The attack was claimed by a spokesman for Kashmir's Alumar separatist group, Riaz Ahmed, who said the raid was a joint operation with the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba Islamic militants.

The militants stormed the complex, which normally houses at least 100 policemen at about 7:10 pm (1340 GMT) on Friday firing automatic weapons and throwing grenades. *AFP*

Pastrana, guerrilla leader agree to revive peace process

LOS POZOS, Colombia—Colombian President Andres Pastrana and the leader of the Marxist FARC guerrillas, Manuel Marulanda, agreed Friday to revive the stalled peace process and resume talks Feb. 14.

Their 13-point statement, signed in front of reporters here, came after more than 13 hours of talks over two days between the two men, and included a "humanitarian agreement" to exchange imprisoned ill FARC prisoners for ailing police and military troops held hostage by the rebel group.

Pastrana was due to return to Bogota late Friday, and was to issue a statement on how long the government would allow an extension of the Switzerland-sized demilitarized zone, which had been set to expire at midnight Friday. He did not immediately say what the time frame might be.

A group of "friendly nations and international organizations" will be invited to meet March 8 in the 42,000 sq.-km rebel-controlled zone in the south, said Colombia's peace commissioner Camilo Gomez, at a press conference at the conclusion of Friday's talks.

Gomez said government and FARC representatives would "resume the talks on February 14, giving priority to the possibility of a ceasefire."

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) withdrew from peace negotiations Nov. 14 amid concerns Pastrana's government was not doing enough to stem violence from the country's right-wing paramilitaries.

The demilitarized zone has been designated a "peace laboratory" since November 1998, amid government efforts to end the 37-year civil war that has left more than 130,000 dead.

FARC, Colombia's oldest and largest rebel group with more than 16,000 members, began peace talks with the Colombian government in October 1999. *AFP*

Japan police begin autopsy of female corpse

TOKYO—Police investigating the disappearance of a British bar hostess have begun an autopsy to determine the identity of a dismembered woman's body unearthed on a beach near Tokyo, a spokesperson said Saturday.

She declined to comment on media reports that police strongly suspect the corpse is that of Lucie Blackman, a former British Airways flight attendant who was working in a Tokyo bar when she disappeared on July 1.

Front-page stories Saturday in all of Japan's national newspapers suggested that investigators were nearing the end of one of this country's highest-profile missing persons cases in years.

Blackman, 22, disappeared after telling a friend she was going on a drive to the ocean with a customer who promised to buy her a mobile phone.

The investigation into her disappearance has received intense media coverage in Japan and Britain, in part because her father came to Japan to conduct his own search and later made a personal appeal to Prime Minister Tony Blair and other British politicians for help.

Blackman's case has highlighted concerns over the vulnerability of foreign women working in the murky world of the Japanese hospitality industry. Many do not have proper visas, making it difficult for them seek the protection of the law.

The dismembered body was dug up near the seaside apartment of a Japanese businessman who was arrested in October and accused of drugging and raping several women, including a Canadian hostess and another Briton.

Joji Obara, 48, pleaded innocent in both cases, saying he had consensual relations with the women. He has not been charged in relation to Blackman. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

'Imminent eruption' of volcano

JAKARTA—Authorities evacuated hundreds of villagers and sounded the "imminent eruption" alert Saturday when Indonesia's Mount Merapi began belching streams of hot lava and clouds of super-heated steam before dawn. There were no reports of injuries among the villagers who live on the slopes and the banks of rivers running near the 2,914-meter volcano, which towers over the central plain of East Java. But ash rain was reported falling on cities as far as 100 km to the east, scientists said. Vulcanologist Sunarto, speaking from the Kaliurang outpost on the southwest slope of Merapi, said the activity lasted about three hours and then decreased markedly in intensity at around 7 a.m. *AFP*

Extremists kill 11 in Algeria

ALGIERS—Eleven people, including five children, were killed in Algeria in separate attacks attributed to Islamic extremists, residents and press reports said Friday. On Thurday, Islamic fundamentalists slit the throats of seven shepherds, including five children, in a sheep pasture in Mainis, some 30 km south of the coastal town of Tenes. The mountainous region around Tenes has recently been the scene of horrific acts of violence against civilians carried out by fundamentalists of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), whose members are fighting against the secular state. Nearly 100 people have been killed since the beginning of the year in western Algeria where the GIA is active. *AFP*

Powell to make Mideast swing

WASHINGTON—US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Friday he would make a whirlwind visit the Middle East and the Persian Gulf at the end of the month to explore options for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal and promote continued containment of Iraq. Powell is to make six and possibly eight stops during a 72-hour swing through the region that will mark his first official solo trip abroad for which he will depart from Washington Feb. 23. Powell confirmed stops in Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia but a senior State Department official said later that one or two additional destinations may be added—possibly Syria and Lebanon. *AFP*

UN urged to form relief group

EMIRATI President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan urged the United Nations to establish a body to organize emergency relief after natural disasters such as last week's earthquake in India. Sheikh Zayed said that it is time that a global approach is taken to the issue of organizing effective emergency relief to deal with disasters such as floods, droughts, hurricanes, tidal waves and earthquakes. The United Arab Emirates was willing to host a preparatory conference and to present the findings of such a meeting to UN Secretary General Kofi Anan, Shiekh Zayed added.

The devastating earthquake in India's Gujarat state on Jan. 26 claimed around 30,000 lives and left hundreds of thousands homeless. *UAE Embassy*

Parliament elects new TV director

PRAGUE, Czech Republic—Rebellious Czech journalists said Friday they were ready to end their protracted strike, hours after beginning talks with a new director of embattled Czech Television. "Our demands have been met," the journalists' spokesperson Martin Schmarcz said. He said an agreement would be signed Saturday, but gave no details of the accord. Earlier Friday, in the 200-seat lower chamber of Parliament, 102 deputies voted in favor of Jiri Balvin as interim director in a move aimed at ending the labor standoff at the public broadcaster. The 47-year-old is a former producer at the station. *AP*

Policeman kills 2 colleagues

CALCUTTA—An Indian policeman believed to be suffering from depression shot dead two colleagues Saturday at Calcutta's international airport in a random shooting spree before trying to kill himself, police said. The gunman was rushed to SSKM hospital in the eastern Indian city with head wounds where doctors described his condition as serious, said a police official. The incident happened at around 3 a.m. near the immigration counter just as officials were clearing passengers for a British Airways flight, said an airport official. The official said no passengers were hurt in the incident and that security was immediately beefed up in the terminal building. *AFP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Aetas: We need land, not trash

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole of Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Southern Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 30° Lo 22°	**Baguio** Hi 25° Lo 13°	**Tuguegarao** Hi 29° Lo 21°	**Laoag** Hi 30° Lo 20°
Clark Zone Hi 31° Lo 21°	**Tagaytay** Hi 28° Lo 18°	**Legazpi** Hi 30° Lo 24°	**Calapan** Hi 31° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 31° Lo 23°	**Roxas** Hi 30° Lo 26°	**Cebu** Hi 31° Lo 24°	**Tacloban** Hi 30° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos Hi 31° Lo 23°	**Zamboanga** Hi 31° Lo 25°	**Cagayan de Oro** Hi 32° Lo 23°	**Davao** Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

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Northern Luzon Bureau
Central Luzon Desk
Room 201, Bonjan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

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TARLAC CITY—Aetas joined thousands of Catholic priests, nuns, students, religious leaders and local government officials in a prayer rally on Thursday condemning the construction of a 100-hectare landfill in Capas town.

The landfill is a project of Clark Development Corp. and the German consortium Ingenieurburo Birkhahn + Nolte Gmbh and Heers & Brockstedt Gmbh.

High school and college students made up most of the protesters. They drew support from social action centers from the dioceses of Tarlac, Bataan, Zambales and Cabanatuan City.

The Aetas, who would be most affected by the sanitary landfill, carried placards bearing the words "*Kailangan namin ng lupa, hindi basura* (We need land, not garbage)."

Bishop Florentino Cinense called on the director of a social action center in Zambales who explained how they were dealing with the garbage problem in their province.

"We have a school-based and a community-based waste management system in our diocese," the priest from Zambales said.

The school-based scheme was dubbed "Baon Basura" while the community-based system was called "Palit Basura," he said.

Under these waste management programs, the garbage generated in the community and the school are sorted and given credit points.

"We replace the garbage brought to our center with goods and grocery items. For example, if one has given us old newspapers worth 180 points, we give back a kilo of rice," the priest said.

There were also redemption centers in schools, he said.

Evangeline Victoria, 17, who lives near the landfill site, said "the children would suffer the most."

"We are 10 children in the family. If the land our parents are tilling becomes a dumping ground of garbage, where will our parents get the food to feed us?" she asked.

She said the Aeta families also depended on fish, shellfish and ferns found in rivers and creeks.

"If we allow this landfill, our rivers and creeks would surely die. How do we get our food?"

During the rally, Gov. Jose Yap led local officials and church leaders in signing a letter demanding the cancellation of the environment clearance certificate earlier issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the landfill project. *Russell Arador and Ronald Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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KEY FEATURES

- **Dr. Richard I. Shaughnessy** is an internationally renowned expert on Indoor Air Quality of buildings. He is currently the Program Manager of the Indoor Air Pollution Research of the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, as well as Environmental Property Assessor engaged by the National Registry of Environmental Professionals (U.S.A.).
- **Dr. Lee Siew Eang** is presently the Singapore's Representative and Vice Chairman of the ASEAN Board of Judges for the Annual Building Energy Best Practices Award, as well as Director of the BCA-NUS Research Center for the Total Building Performance of the National University of Singapore.
- **Engr. Gerardo Parco** is an Assistant Professor in the Environmental Engineering Graduate Program of the College of Engineering, University of the Philippines-Diliman, as well as Board Member of the Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers (PIChE) and the UP Alumni Engineers.
- **Alex Ang** is currently the General Manager for "Environmental Health and Management Services" with PWD Corporation. He is a Certified Indoor Environmentalist (CIE), as well as a member of the Indoor Air Quality Association from the U.S.A.

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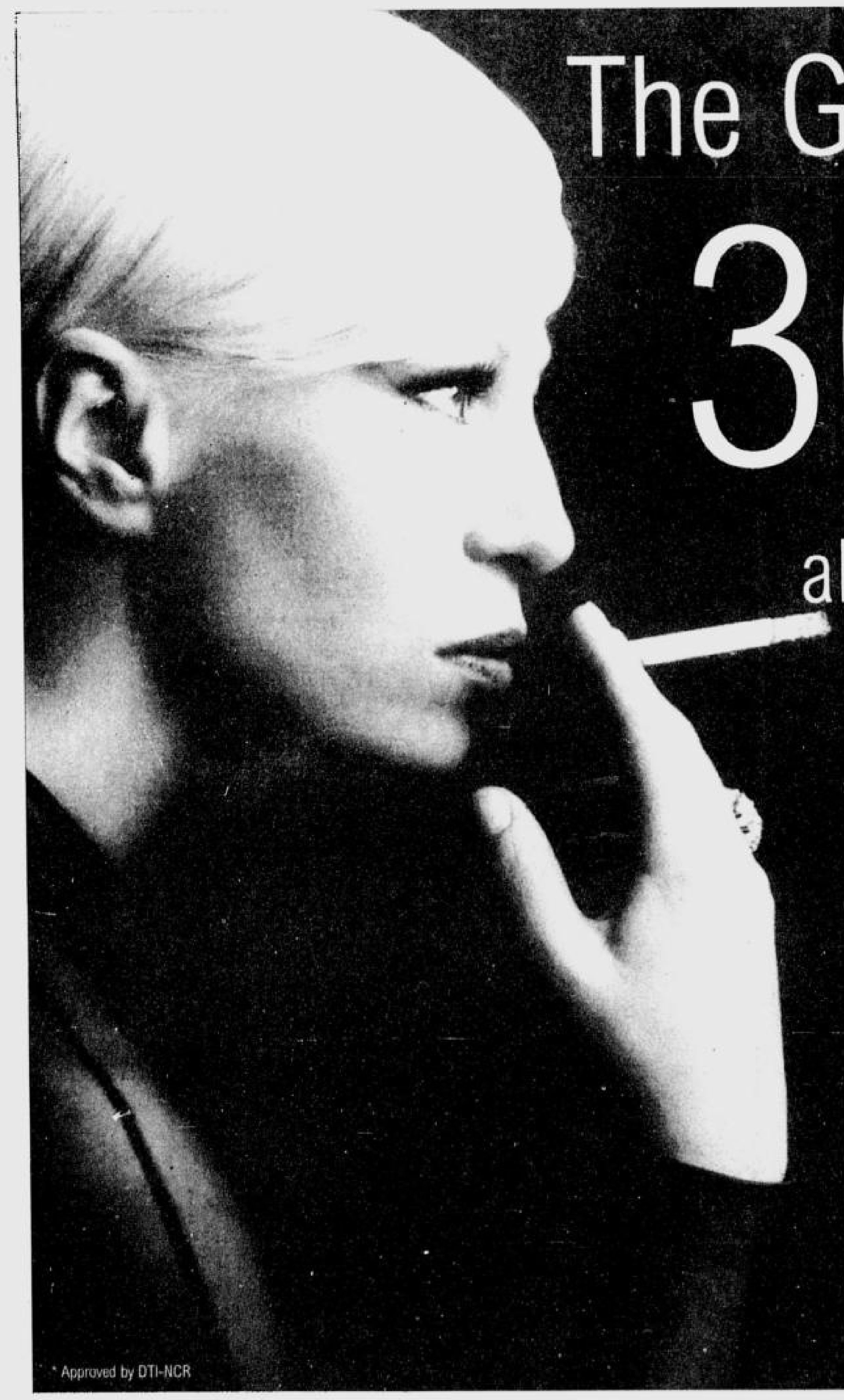

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ROUNDUP

Estrada trial urged

DAGUPAN CITY—The Erap Agco La Movement (Enough of Erap), a multisectoral group that led Pangasinan's campaign in the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada, called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to deny him an exile or immunity. "(Estrada) should be tried, convicted and punished for what he truly is, a criminal. He and his accomplices should pay for their crimes against the people," said lawyer Delmer Cruz, Erap Agco La secretary general. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Pinatubo for tourism

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said Mt. Pinatubo would become the centerpiece of sustainable tourism development in the region. Gordon ordered Tourism Undersecretary Evelyn Pantig to draw up a tourism master plan to fully develop the communities around the volcano. At least 30 tourism planners are climbing Pinatubo next week to assess the tourism potentials, social organizations and environmental conservation efforts around the volcano. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gov denies 'hot spot' tag

CALAPAN CITY—Gov. Rodolfo G. Valencia denied reports of "hot spots" in Oriental Mindoro, saying elections in the province had always been peaceful, except for several "minor" incidents. A police report described Puerto Galera, San Teodoro, Bulalacao, Roxas and Mansalay towns as probable election hot spots due to the activities of the communist New People's Army and past election-related violence. A mayoral aspirant and a political leader were shot dead in Bulalacao and San Teodoro, respectively, a few days before the 1998 elections, while another mayoral aspirant survived a grenade attack in Roxas. *Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cops destroy marijuana

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Police destroyed at least P45 million worth of marijuana plants in five hinterland villages of Bakun and Kibungan towns early this month. Senior Supt. Eliseo de la Paz, Benguet police director, said police teams on counter-insurgency patrols discovered several marijuana plantations at the border of Bakun and Kibungan. Police uprooted 300,000 fully-grown marijuana plants and seized 10,000 marijuana seedlings. Also found were five 7-kg bundles of dried marijuana worth P70,000. *Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Benguet police cited

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet—The Benguet police command was named the best provincial police command in the Cordillera during the regional police's anniversary on Tuesday. Among the awardees were Senior Supt. Eliseo de la Paz, Benguet police director, best senior police commissioned officer; Chief. Insp. Ernesto Gaab, best junior commissioned officer; and P02 Jocelyn Banawag, best women, youth and children's desk officer. The Pidigan police station in Abra was named municipal police station of the year. *Nathan Alcantara, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Rice program for poor

LEGAZPI CITY—The National Food Authority is making available quality but cheap rice to the poorest families in fifth- and sixth-class municipalities of the country. Nicolas Crisostomo, NFA regional director, said the project would benefit some 200,000 families and aimed "to cushion the impact of the economic crisis and alleviate the poverty situation in depressed communities." The target beneficiaries included some 100,000 families living in relocation areas, fishing villages and poor villages nationwide. *Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Manero donates land for parolees

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—From priest killer to philanthropist?

Norberto Manero Jr., who gained notoriety for allegedly eating the flesh and organs of his victims—an accusation that he has repeatedly denied—has donated a 12-hectare lot as site for a halfway house for Mindanao's parolees and pardoned criminals.

Manero, 55, alias "Kumander Bucay," was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder in 1985 of Italian priest Tullio Favali in Tulunan, North Cotabato, and more prison years for attempted murder, arson and evasion of service of sentence.

He sparked nationwide outrage in February last year after the INQUIRER reported that he had been seen roaming Tulunan town.

Manero was granted conditional pardon by then President Joseph Estrada on Dec. 16, 1999, resulting in his discharge from Muntinlupa prison on Dec. 28, 1999.

The uproar following the discovery of Manero's pardon in early February led to the revocation of his pardon and his recommitment to jail in Sarangani for a 1977 kidnapping and double murder case.

Franco Bringas, senior parole and probation officer of Sarangani, said Manero had executed a deed of donation covering a 12-hectare property in Barangay Kinilis, Polomolok, South Cotabato.

He said groundbreaking rites were held Jan. 23.

Bringas said the still unnamed halfway house would be the first in Mindanao and the second in the country. He said it would cater to all parolees and pardoned criminals all over Mindanao.

Bringas said that after the rites, construction of a road leading to the site started, with assistance coming from Dole Philippines and Polomolok Mayor Clemente Tubo.

He said cottages would be built in the area, starting July. Funds will be donated by civic organizations and individuals, he added.

Parolees and pardoned criminals, he said, would be endorsed for skills training and counseling at the halfway house before they would be allowed to return home.

Through the facility, Bringas said, former convicts would be better prepared to face the challenges of a new life outside prison.

He lauded Manero for helping the Board of Pardons and Parole set up the "noble project."

Manero acquired over a hundred hectares of land in the area when he was leader of the paramilitary groups, Ilaga and the Integrated Civilian Home Defense Forces. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Widows of slain Bulacan mayors press poll bids

MALOLOS, Bulacan—The widows of slain Mayor Esteban Paulino of Doña Remedios Trinidad and former mayor Honorato Galvez of San Ildefonso have announced their bids to gain local power in the May 14 elections.

They could be running against the prime suspects in the killings of their husbands.

Mrs. Evelyn Paulino, whose husband was killed in an ambush in Angat town in December, will run for mayor under the Lakas-NUCD against PO3 Felix Valencia, the suspected mastermind in her husband's murder.

Valencia, who has denied the charges, was expected to run under the Nationalist People's Coalition.

Supt. Emelito Sarmiento, Bulacan police director, said he would ask Mrs. Paulino and Valencia to sign a "peace covenant" to avoid possible election-related violence in the town.

Mrs. Paulino has filed before the Department of Justice multiple murder charges against Valencia and four other suspects identified as his brother Marvin Valencia, PO1 Rodelio de la Torre of the Angat police, Lamberto de Guzman and Fel Esquivel.

Mrs. Paulino based her accusations on Valencia's earlier declarations that he would challenge Mayor Paulino's reelection bid.

She claimed that Valencia, in public gatherings in Angat and Doña Remedios Trinidad, had been boasting that he would become the next mayor of Doña Remedios Trinidad.

In San Ildefonso, Mrs. Galvez would run against incumbent Mayor Enrique Viudez for a seat in the provincial board in Bulacan's third district.

Viudez, who was implicated in the murder of the former mayor in June last year, has decided not to seek reelection and instead file his candidacy for board member.

Viudez said he was avoiding being linked to the series of killings in his town.

A source here said Eduardo Galvez, a brother of the late mayor, would run for mayor of the town.

Estrella said she would run under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino that has coalesced with the Bulacan United Opposition.

Mrs. Galvez's candidacy was confirmed during a BUO meeting held on Thursday. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Quezon folk demolish fishpond

By **Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

"PEOPLE power" in action to dismantle an alleged illegal fishpond.
DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

INFANTA, Quezon—Fed up with alleged government indecision, some 1,500 people demolished on Thursday the gates of a 15-hectare illegal fishpond reportedly being applied for leasehold by a "close buddy" of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Armed with spades, bars and wood stalks, the residents dug for about an hour amid chants of prayer.

After the structures were demolished, water flowed once more to the neighboring ponds of the Binulasan River. The dike was built by workers allegedly hired by a former Metro Manila mayor, who is a close ally of Estrada.

"This is our version of people power in Infanta. And may this event bring the message across . . . that no one shall deny our people their free access to their source of livelihood," said one of the leaders of the group, who requested anonymity.

He charged that the workers wantonly cut mangroves in an abandoned fishpond in Barangay Binulasan without a permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Improvements were also made in the site without a Fishpond Leasehold Agreement from the DENR, the leader claimed.

"Our leaders have initiated countless dialogues and representations with several government agencies, but it seems that (the former mayor) had the backing then of the 'gods' in Malacañang," the leader said.

He claimed that despite the violations that would normally cause the rejection of the leasehold application, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources still issued a conditional permit "on humanitarian grounds."

"What is humanitarian there when he caused the destruction of one of the few remaining natural mangrove reserves in our locality? That mangrove area sustains the day-to-day existence of countless people, especially when the weather prevents them (from going) out to the sea to fish," he said.

As early as 6 a.m., people arrived in the village in tricycles, trucks and other vehicles.

"I don't know anything about this mobilization. I was just surprised when the people, mostly from the poblacion started to descend on my village. I can't do anything except to instruct my barangay tanod (village guards) to secure the peace and order in the area," Carlos Nolledo, barangay chair, said.

The fishpond workers were surprised by the throng but did not resist the demolition.

Even Infanta Mayor Rolando Velasco denied knowledge of the plan. He said he sent a letter to Malacañang on Jan. 30, asking for the "immediate disapproval" of the former mayor's application because people were restive.

Oscar Catelo of the Infanta Integrated Community Assistance Inc., a Church-based organization opposing the fishpond project, said his group was not privy to the people's initiative.

"Maybe they were just fed up," he said.

NIA tackles irrigation woes

BAGUIO CITY—Despite the threat of El Niño this year, the National Irrigation Administration will push through with the rehabilitation and construction of irrigation systems in the Cordillera this year.

Borromeo Melchor, regional irrigation manager, urged local officials to support their efforts, especially this year when the drought brought about by El Niño is expected to hit the country.

Melchor said the NIA would have to immediately activate the irrigation systems to alleviate the water problems of more than 30,000 farmers in the region.

The agency will give priority to the rehabilitation of 10,238 hectares of irrigation systems in the region which have remained stagnant since the 1970s. Most of these irrigation systems are found in Abra and Benguet.

NIA officials noted that the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration had reported that the El Niño weather phenomenon would hit the country from November this year until April 2002.

"There are many irrigation systems that are not operating because there are no watersheds and due to indiscriminate dumping of garbage in areas that affect the water system," Melchor said.
Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ▪ CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS, Bureau Chief

A space for peace

By Margie M. Floirendo

THE THUNDER out of Central Mindanao's war zones rolled into the quiet streets of Barangay Nalapaan on May 2 last year, shaking the already wobbly shanties and shredding whatever small hopes of peace the people still had until that tragic morning.

By the time the armies passed, little that was recognizable of the village was left. The homes, the farms and the stores were all wiped out. The people—Muslims, Christians and *lumad* alike—fled, taking with them as much of the little they owned that they could carry on their backs.

Of clothes and foodstuff they gathered as much as they could, but their hopes and their dreams were abandoned in the face of the force that irresistibly trampled on their lives.

In the days, weeks and months that followed, the people of Nalapaan huddled with the rest of the evacuees in hastily erected camps across Mindanao. And while they considered themselves lucky for having escaped with their lives, all of them knew that their ordeals were only just beginning.

While the government intensified its war against the Moro rebels, the evacuees waged their own battles against hunger and sickness.

And as the war ended with a government "victory" over the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, little more was heard of the people still living in the evacuation centers.

Most damaged

It was, therefore, a surprise, albeit a very pleasant one, when news of the launching of a new rehabilitation program for areas devastated by the war was announced. What was even more encouraging was the fact that Nalapaan, after being identified by the National Peace Forum as one of the most damaged barangays, was chosen pilot area for the project dubbed "Space for Peace."

Formally, the project is known as the Integrated Return and Rehabilitation Program (IRRP) and was launched by Tabang Mindanao on Feb. 1. The program has the twin goals of rebuilding and rehabilitating the community after the conflict.

In July last year, Ambassador Howard Dee, cochair of Tabang Mindanao, Monsignor Orlando Quevedo, the archbishop of Cotabato, and Fr. Bert C. Layson of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Pikit, agreed to set up in this community a "sanctuary of peace."

Rehabilitation work began after an assurance from the military and the MILF to fully respect and support the people's desire to rebuild and rehabilitate their village. The people appealed to both forces not to make their area a battleground.

The local government headed by Mayor Motin Malingco, supported and assisted in the implementation of the program, using the framework of a comprehensive peace process and integrated human development.

12 components

In Nalapaan, 12 program components were identified. These were community organizing, education, shelter, sustainable agriculture, water system, livelihood, health and sanitation, supplemental feeding, psychosocial intervention, infrastructure, land and Advocacy.

At present, 13 houses that were destroyed have been rebuilt. A total of 142 families have been given assistance in repairing their damaged homes.

Infrastructure facilities, such as sitio halls, a day care center, a school, a *bentana* (*lumad* place of worship) and a mosque were either rebuilt or repaired.

Eighty-six hectares have been planted to palay through a communal farming method, and the farmers have benefited from the first harvest.

Water pumps and hand pumps have been installed by Oxfam.

One hundred forty-six women have received goats, chickens and pigs under an animal dispersal program.

Children are being fed under a supplemental program sponsored by Canada Fund and other donors.

Education, of which the culture of peace is an element, is about to commence through the cooperation of Catholic Relief Services.

It seemed that it was only a short time ago when Tabang Mindanao implemented the concept of "space for peace" in Nalapaan through the IRRP.

Hope amid crises

Today, we are witnesses to the power of unity, respect for one another, genuine love and commitment for peace. These are magnificent signs of hope amid crises. The experiences will develop a deeper respect for and understanding of people's culture, and justice and peace. Strong partnerships are being developed for the protection of lives and respect for property and religious beliefs.

It is gratifying for one like me who is involved in peace initiatives to witness a successful program where Muslims, indigenous peoples and Christians can live in harmony. It is possible because the program is NGO-initiated and the leadership—in this case, Father Layson—is well-loved and respected by the tri-people.

The program's implementation is collaborated by efforts from the Church, *ustadzes* and *imams*, GOs, LGUs, the warring factions and the Piso for Unity Peace and Progress Foundation, which provided the funds.

The success of Nalapaan's "space for peace" serves as an inspiration to the leaders of 500 other barangays affected by the armed conflict in rebuilding trust in their people that will lead to a sustainable peace effort.

Only the cessation of hostilities can signal the coming of peace and only then can actions to consolidate the peace process commence. It is earnestly hoped that through a total approach to peace and development owing to the people's initiative, the dividends from this process will become a reality.

It also sends a message of hope to the entire country. That if these people, who, on the surface have little in common, least of all their religious beliefs, can live together, work together and build together, then the rest of the nation can do no less.

Margarita Moran-Floirendo is a member of Tabang Mindanao's Task Force.

GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

A WOMAN looks after her grandchild at an evacuation center in Pikit, North Cotabato.

2 anomalies of war

By Froilan Gallardo
Cagayan de Oro City

THE FIRST anomaly was the war. The second is when people cannot go home to live their own lives because of the war."

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman issued this statement in Cagayan de Oro City on Friday as she announced that at least 214,000 people are still staying in evacuation centers in Central Mindanao and Sulu.

More than 26,000 families or 141,000 persons are still living in the evacuation centers in Central Mindanao, almost a year after they were driven away from their homes because of the war between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Soliman said.

A total of 12,638 families or 72,940 persons have yet to return to their homes in Sulu as government troops continued to pursue Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The plight of the evacuees has moved the Macapagal administration to resume peace talks with the MILF. President Macapagal-Arroyo, however, rejected any plans to negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu.

Soliman briefed Ms Macapagal on the plight of the evacuees in Camp Evangelista, headquarters of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, during the President's visit to Cagayan de Oro on Friday.

As many as 16,350 families or 89,603 persons are living in 35 evacuation centers in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, 8,563 families in North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, and 1,149 families or 5,231 persons in South Cotabato, Davao Oriental and Lanao del Sur, she said.

Soliman said 141,978 families or 724,794 people were affected by the war between the MILF and the government.

Many of the families could not return to their homes because of continued fighting in their villages, she said.

Local politicians have allotted the government's shelter assistance to their relatives, she said, while "members of warring clans don't want to live together in the new settlements."

Ms Macapagal has designated the Department of Social Work and Development as the lead agency in the government effort to ease the plight of the evacuees.

She said it was important for her administration to allow the evacuees to go home and live normal lives. "It is an obligation of the government to rebuild their burnt houses," the President said.

Soliman said it was "anomalous" that the members of the Presidential Task Force for Relief and Rehabilitation, formerly chaired by Edicio de la Torre, were mostly from Manila. "They (members) worked mostly through LGUs because they didn't know anyone in the area."

She said 1,152 "core shelters" had already been built for the evacuees in Maguindanao and Cotabato as of Feb. 2. Another 271 units are in their final phase of construction.

Soliman said P50 million has been released to the concerned LGUs to buy food and provide temporary shelter for the evacuees.

Recommendations

DUGONG MINDANAW

Patricio P. Diaz

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country. -- Ed.

SELECTING members of the government panel to negotiate peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is not as easy and as simple as going through a list of recommendees by concerned individuals and groups in Mindanao.

There should be, as a starting point, a meeting of minds between the government and the MILF on basic and necessary concerns.

I. It is most basic that:

Firstly, it should be recognized that the GRP and the MILF cannot ignore the GRP-MNLF Jakarta Peace Agreement of 1996 inasmuch as the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) and the MILF have jurisdiction over people living in the same area.

The GRP-MNLF and GRP-MILF agreements should be supplementary and complementary. Otherwise, the agreements will become instruments of trouble instead of peace. To have real and lasting peace in Muslim Mindanao, the MNLF and the MILF must unite, not go their separate ways.

Secondly, the composition of the GRP panel should adhere closely to the first basic understanding. The panel should satisfy the MILF demands and, at the same time, steer the talks toward the reconciliation of these demands and pertinent provisions of the 1996 GRP-MNLF Agreement.

II. It is necessary that:

Before the formal talks start, the evacuees must be returned to their villages and assisted in their socioeconomic rehabilitation and development.

Sincerity to the ceasefire agreement is a must for both the military and the MILF. The military must go back to their camps. The MILF's primary and secondary camps should be returned so they will have a place to stay. For the MILF to be in roving bands is not conducive to peace.

On the part of the government, it will be a good measure of sincerity and goodwill to start funding the conversion of MILF camps into resettlement areas for landless Muslims. We believe the MILF will welcome this.

III. Corollary to the above:

Firstly, pursuant to the first basic understanding, the enactment of the law amending Republic Act No. 6734 in compliance with the 1996 GRP-MNLF Agreement should be frozen. If passed by Congress already, its implementation can be deferred.

Because the amendatory law has been overtaken by the GRP-MILF peace talks and the MNLF and the MILF have rejected both the House and Senate versions, it has become irrelevant to the main purpose of the agreement.

Let the agreement remain in its transitory status and extend the term of office of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, the Consultative Assembly and the Special Zone of Peace and Development according to Paragraph 16 of the agreement and Section 14 of Executive Order No. 371 of President Fidel V. Ramos.

Secondly, after the GRP-MILF peace talks, a new law amending RA 6734 should be enacted embodying the agreements with the MNLF and the MILF.

Until the passage of this new amendatory law, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao will continue under RA 6734 and hold elections according to this organic act. There is nothing in the GRP-MNLF 1996 Agreement providing for the suspension of ARMM elections pending the passage of the amendatory law.

On the contrary, Paragraph 17 of the same agreement suggests that it is imperative to hold the ARMM elections since "(t)he term of office of the SPCPD and the Consultative Assembly shall coincide with the three-year term of office of the officials" of the ARMM who were "elected in 1996." As it is, the suspension twice of the ARMM election while extending the term of office of the SPCPD and the CA has violated Paragraph 17.

Obviously, there was an understanding that during the transitory period, the SPCPD and the CA should be under the control of the MNLF. To insure this, amend Section 6 of EO No. 371 accordingly.

Thirdly, to give flesh to the second understanding, Gen. Manuel T. Yan (retired) should again head the GRP panel. Prof. Rudy Rodil, a Mindanaoan and member of the GRP panel in Jakarta, and MNLF Chair Nur Misuari or his representative should be in the GRP panel.

Two other members must come from Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur.

Yan has proven his tact and diplomacy. He, Misuari and Rodil are in the best position to reconcile the GRP-MNLF agreement and the MILF demands.

Fourthly, a consultative body composed of governors or former governors of the Szopad provinces, representatives of the ARMM, some congressmen and senators, and members of the academe should assist the GRP panel. With their inputs, the objections and oppositions experienced in 1996 may be avoided.

IV. In principle, the negotiating panels should agree on the ultimate end of the peace talks: To restore justice, honor and dignity, which the Muslims lost, fully or partially, due to the unjust policies and laws of the Manila governments from the Spanish era to the 1970s.

However, in attaining this, the peaceful and productive social, economic and political coexistence of the Muslims and non-Muslims in Mindanao must be preserved.

*Veteran journalist **Patricio P. Diaz**, former editor in chief of the Cotabato City-based Mindanao Cross and Mindanao Kris, and author of several books on autonomy, sent this letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo two days before she named the members of her government peace panel.*

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NURSING his wounds in the comfort of the grandeur of his Polk Street residence in San Juan, Estrada confers with son Jinggoy over at the round table while his secretary Malou stands by and Boying Remulla takes it easy on the sofa.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Erap's US trip opposed

(From page A1)

to return to the country after his eye surgery.

"The truth is he doesn't want to return," said Drilon.

Human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong said "it would be a grave and irreparable injustice to the Filipino people and a potentially dangerous and self-destabilizing action" on Ms Macapagal's part if Estrada is allowed to go.

Capulong, counsel of 82 complainants in the plunder charges filed against Estrada and a private prosecutor at the impeachment trial, also said the trip could only be a pretext to escape criminal prosecution and punishment.

Activists said they would hold the President accountable if Estrada were able to leave the country.

Estrada is reportedly afflicted with glaucoma. He confirmed Friday that he was planning a trip to the United States for surgery scheduled in March.

Various lawyers and anti-crime groups have filed plunder and other criminal charges against him based on the evidence gathered by House prosecutors who charged him with graft, bribery, betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution in his aborted impeachment trial.

Out of power

Corona pointed out that there were many doctors here who could treat Estrada just as competently as in America.

He noted that high officials thrown out of power seemed to acquire problems with their eyes—an obvious reference to former first lady Imelda Marcos, who at one time was allowed to leave the country for glaucoma treatment in the United States.

"*Kapag yata nawala na sa poder ay lumalabo na ang mata*," he said.

Also, a hold departure order was in force against Estrada and 23 other persons, including his wife and his cronies, Corona said.

Perez, who had issued the hold order, said he had not received a request to have it lifted.

And even if such a request were filed, Perez said, Estrada would likely not be allowed to go because "too many" cases had been filed against him.

Besides, Estrada might not come back, he said.

Still, Perez said, he would fight for his right as justice secretary to issue a hold order against Estrada.

Indictment

Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada, a prosecutor at the impeachment trial, said Estrada "should first hear all the charges filed against him before he leaves for medical treatment abroad."

Tañada said that if Estrada were allowed to leave earlier, "this might result in a delicate and complicated situation for his prosecution."

Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, another House prosecutor, said Estrada's family should just send for his foreign doctors.

"The important thing is that he gets the treatment he needs. Why not ask them to come here and examine his eyes, to save the Macapagal administration from embarrassment in case he does not return? That would be the best arrangement," Arroyo said.

He also said a government doctor should certify that Estrada urgently needed eye surgery, and that the operation could not possibly be done here.

"We realize that Estrada really has a history of eye problems because he was operated on during his incumbency," Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera said.

"However, (his family) should first consider local doctors before pleading that he be allowed to go abroad. They should first study all options here in the country so that their moves are not suspect," Herrera added.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. warned that Estrada's leaving the country at this time was "highly suspect, and people cannot be blamed if they think that this is just a gimmick to escape prosecution."

Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad warned of a possible backlash from the People Power II forces.

"President Macapagal has reiterated several times that there can be no reconciliation without justice. People want Estrada's trial to proceed. If he is allowed to go abroad, who knows what will happen to the cases he is facing here?" Abad said.

Political will

Capulong told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that instead of allowing Estrada to "seek refuge" in the United States, the Macapagal administration should "muster strong political will" to send him to the National Penitentiary, "where he and his acrobat lawyer can continue to fantasize on his being *de jure* president."

He also reminded Ms Macapagal of the "costly lessons" in the prosecution of the Marcoses and their cronies and the recovery of ill-gotten wealth.

"This administration should avoid the mistakes of the past three administrations. The prosecution and punishment of Estrada and his cohorts and the recovery of their stolen money should be non-negotiable," Capulong said.

Capulong also said Estrada was apparently worried about the eight cases of economic plunder, a nonbailable offense, that the 82 complainants had filed.

He said Perez and Ombudsman Aniano Desierto had both assured him and his clients during their meetings that the first economic plunder case filed last December would be resolved in the next three weeks.

He said they had submitted all their evidence and expressed confidence that they had a strong case against Estrada.

"Based on this assurance, former President Estrada could be ordered arrested by the Sandiganbayan and detained indefinitely for the entire duration of the trial," he said.

Best actor

Rodolfo Sambajon, chair of the militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, said allowing Estrada to leave would be tantamount to Ms Macapagal awarding him another "best actor" award.

"It's just a ploy, one of the million alibis from a ham actor and an aging performer, " Sambajon said, adding that Estrada was merely reprising his favorite "underdog" role in his movies.

"Asiong Salonga wants a daring or graceful escape to make history through sheer role playing," Sambajon said.

Bayan Muna secretary general Nathanael Santiago urged the DOJ to strictly enforce the hold order against Estrada.

If Estrada were to slip out of the country, Santiago said, it would be easy for cause-oriented groups to mobilize thousands of people just to bar him from leaving his house in Greenhills, San Juan.

He said "a bulk of evidence has been staring" Ms Macapagal in the face.

"We are just wondering why up to now no formal charge has been filed by the administration, and no arrest warrant has been issued against Estrada and his cohorts," Santiago added.

In Davao City, the militant Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) said it would hold the President accountable if Estrada managed to leave.

Robinson Montalba, PCPR-Southern Mindanao chair, reminded the President that the group was not in agreement with her earlier stated position on proposals that Estrada be allowed to go on exile.

Ms Macapagal had said that exile was Estrada's "call" even as she vowed to press on with corruption and other criminal charges against him.

The PCPR also warned that it would hold mass actions to pressure the government to immediately arrest and keep Estrada in jail.

"Allowing Estrada to go abroad is like letting him go scot-free of criminal liabilities," Montalba said. ***Reports from Donna S. Cueto, Cathy C. Yamsuan, Juliet L. Javellana and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Estrada under 'housewife' arrest

(From page A1)

Giant canopies have been put up in the courtyard to shield him, his family and friends from the prying lens of TV cameras set up in nearby high-rises.

Every evening, about 30 to 40 of his relatives and friends gather at a hall across the main reception area to attend Mass.

Among those who attended Mass that evening were former Secretaries Alberto Romualdez of health, Gregorio Vigilar of public works, and Mario Tiaoqui of energy. Estrada's daughter, Jackie, and her husband, Beaver Lopez, were also there.

"I'm now closer to God. Unlike before, I only hear Mass once a week. Now, it's every day," he told the INQUIRER.

After the interview, he told one of his aides: "*Magsimba tayo nang mabawasan ang mga kasalanan natin* (Let's hear Mass, so we won't have too many sins)."

Too early to tell

Estrada said it was still "too early" to make an assessment of the Macapagal administration.

"But if you ask me, I want it to succeed because that's precisely why I stepped aside . . . for a while," he told the INQUIRER.

Estrada said Ms Macapagal, "as acting President," deserved everyone's support for "the benefit of the masses who badly need help."

Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn in as President at the height of Edsa People Power II at noon of Jan. 20.

Estrada and his family left Malacañang through the back door in the afternoon. The day before, the military top brass and a big number of his Cabinet officials withdrew their support.

Hundreds of thousands took to the streets and demanded Estrada's resignation when House prosecutors in his Senate impeachment trial quit to protest a decision by senator-judges barring them access to bank documents on Estrada's P3.3-billion alleged secret account with Equitable PCI Bank.

"I could have fought it out. We had 16 tanks in Malacañang and more than a thousand men of the Presidential Security Group," he said.

"But I wanted to avoid bloodshed because innocent people will die. That's why I thought it would be better to step aside."

Unfair

Estrada, however, found it unfair that he was ousted even if more serious anomalies were committed under the Aquino and Ramos administrations, including billions of pesos in government funds allegedly misused in questionable projects.

"Those were the people's money. In my case, I was just linked to jueteng, yet I was ousted," he said.

The trial was prompted by allegations last October by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson that his former drinking and gambling buddy pocketed millions of pesos in "jueteng" payoffs and kickbacks from tobacco taxes.

The political opposition led by Estrada's predecessors—Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos—as well as the business community, militant groups and the Catholic Church called for his resignation.

He said businessman Ricardo Romulo, who replaced his friend, George Go, as chair of Equitable PCI Bank, was part of a "conspiracy" to impeach him. Romulo, one of the leaders of the Makati Business Club that was opposed to Estrada, stayed only for a few weeks as bank chair.

After Go resigned in December, the bank's senior vice president, Clarissa Ocampo, testified that she saw Estrada sign a false name—Jose Velarde—to bank documents withdrawing P500 million from the P3.3-billion secret account.

Estrada said Romulo violated bank secrecy laws when he allowed the bank to release documents to the impeachment court.

Warning

He warned Ms Macapagal about pressures from political backers like Ramos.

"There are so many dictating on her, it's pitiful," he said. "That's a banana republic."

Estrada said Ms Macapagal was "a puppet of other people."

"If she crosses Ramos or (Executive Secretary and former Defense Secretary Renato) de Villa, there'll be another coup," he said.

Estrada, who has questioned the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency in the Supreme Court, claimed he was only "on leave" as President.

He took exception to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez's pronouncement that he was making the claim only to get immunity from prosecution.

"I'm not protecting myself," Estrada said. "I'm protecting our young republic and the Office of the President."

Estrada faces a host of grave charges, like plunder, bribery, graft and unexplained wealth. ***With reports from AP and AFP***

Love is a bowl of steaming hot 'lugaw'

(From page A1)

They had been married for more than a decade then. They were happy, blessed with two bright adolescents, a boy and a girl. They both had relatively successful careers—Billy was a management consultant, Lou was working at the University of the Philippines, where they met when they were in college.

They were earning enough to send the children to good schools. They had two cars and a stay-in house help, and they could afford little luxuries such as eating out. But they did not have a house of their own. They lived in a rented house in Loyola Heights, which was close to the children's schools.

By their own reckoning, a simple lifestyle.

Something missing

But something seemed to be missing. Was there anything Billy and Lou could do that would make things a little better for even just a few people?

On that fateful morning, they thought of preparing a hot meal for children on Sundays. They agreed to do it right away.

They chose a semi-commercial area in Quezon City where they had seen many children loitering, picking at garbage, or watching cars along with their fathers or elder brothers.

These children were not the so-called "street children" who had no one to care for them. Most of them lived in a clump of squatter homes not far from an upper-middle-class residential area.

On the first day, Billy recalls, they parked near a busy shop and brought out the food.

"The children were wary at first," says Lou. "They must have wondered how much it would cost." Even the older ones did not want to come near.

Billy and Lou had to assure the kids, and the parents as well, that there were no strings attached to what they were offering.

As the children came closer, they started to break into smiles. They reached for the steaming bowls and sat down to eat on the pavement. The stuff tasted good. Could they go back for seconds?

Things did not go smoothly in the beginning. Some shop owners were not too happy about the small commotion in front of them.

"We were shooed away," Billy says, chuckling, "so we had to find a better place to park."

They found one a few meters away, in front of a building that was closed during weekends.

In their first year, Billy remembers, a car stopped while they were feeding the children and from it emerged a man who asked what they were doing.

"He turned out to be a Chinese-Filipino businessman who was dealing in chicken," Billy says. "He wanted to help, and so he pledged several kilos of dressed chicken every week."

The man has become their friend. "He would invite us to his home on special occasions and he would introduce us to his friends," Billy says.

Rain or shine

Thus it has been for Billy and Lou every Sunday, rain or shine. When they know they would not be able to make it, they tell the children ahead of time and make up for their absence another day. If one cannot make it, one of their kids pitches in to help the other.

In the beginning, Lou recalls, their maid was not excited about the enterprise because it meant work on her rest day. But she soon got the hang of it and now likes doing it, Lou says. Now her maid prepares everything early in the morning.

"On her birthday," Lou says, "she prepared something special and came with us so she could serve the children herself."

Do their kids complain that they are not there for Sunday lunch? Oh, they're teenagers, and they sleep until late, Billy says.

Billy and Lou are back at home at around 2 p.m. That is when they have their own quiet lunch.

Some of their friends who learned about what they were doing have offered to help. A friend and professor at UP has pledged one big *caldero* of *arroz caldo* every week.

Billy and Lou can only handle so much, and they have no plan to expand. Theirs is a hands-on type of work, a fulfilling one that, in their view, should remain small and manageable. If other people want to do the same, that would be great. Already, they know someone who is doing something similar but who operates from her own driveway.

Don't they want to do the feeding right in the community where these kids live? No, Billy says. There might be too many kids, plus parents, and the food might not be enough. Plunging right into that depressed community would require a different kind of involvement, he adds.

Handing out money would be so much easier, Billy muses, but to go out and do something yourself requires time and effort.

God's gift

The food used to be loaded in the luggage compartment of the family sedan, which was quite small for the heavy stuff Billy and Lou had to bring.

They wondered if it was okay to pray for a more spacious vehicle. And their prayer was answered.

"This is God's gift," Billy says of the new Mitsubishi Adventure as he watches the children run their hands over it and stare at their reflection on the shiny paint.

Billy and Lou have developed a special relationship with the kids who have become their Sunday regulars. Three years is a long time, and they've seen the kids grow to their present size. They have also met many of the parents, who come to help even if only to keep the rowdy kids in line, pick up strewn pieces of bones, or wipe the pavement clean. Of course, they also eat.

The lunch fare is almost always *arroz caldo*. The children can choose what should go with the *lugaw*—chicken or boiled egg. The small ones usually prefer the egg, which they mix with the *lugaw*.

Lou has observed some kids putting away the eggs for eating later. Some of them have small plastic bags for their take-home.

But why *lugaw* and not, say, spaghetti or *pancit*?

The children like something hot and *arroz caldo* seems to be the all-time favorite, Lou explains. "Once, we had sandwiches," she recalls, "and the children played with them and threw pieces of bread at each other."

There must be something good about ladling and serving something steaming in a bowl to a hungry child, who receives it in frail, little hands.

The act of serving seems fully accomplished, almost sacred.

Gloria has bad hair day, shuns media

(From page A1)

tice of simply smiling and waving off their questions, the decision not to let the press cover the day's major activities was unexpected and a first.

But while Ms Macapagal has avoided the Malacañang press corps, she has agreed to several interviews with foreign journalists.

Yesterday, her staff merely distributed press releases on her trips to the medical center in Quezon City and to the church in Manila. After press officers advised reporters that Ms Macapagal wanted the hospital event to be a private affair, the journalists had to rely on a press release issued by Radio-TV Malacañang (RTVM) to describe the affair.

The visit to the wounded soldiers is the seventh military-related activity that the President has attended since she assumed office on Jan. 20. At similar events, she has consulted with military officials afterwards, especially during her first couple of weeks in office when rumors of coup plots were persistent.

The President yesterday distributed medals to 41 wounded soldiers. militiamen and civilian volunteers. according to the press release. Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that Ms Macapagal also awarded "spot promotions" to most of the injured.

He said the soldiers "very warmly" received the President. Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and other military commanders attended the event, Ermita added.

Most of the soldiers were wounded in encounters in Basilan, Sulu, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur. Others were injured in Quezon, Kalinga and Batangas.

Less than two months ago, then President Joseph Estrada visited the wounded soldiers at the same center. increased their medical assistance and food allowance, and promised free housing and scholarship grants for their children.

He also gave out gifts and sang with the soldiers at their Christmas party last year.

Wanted . . .

(From page A1)

"*Kung maminyo ka lang ug tagadiri, wala gihapoy pulos* " (It's no use marrying a local man)," said one such woman who has started hunting for a future spouse in cyberspace.

A random survey conducted by Digos Networks (www.digosnet.com) from Jan. 15 to Feb. 5 among 200 female Internet users here showed that more than half were using the Internet to seek Caucasian husbands.

Paula (not her real name), 28, a farmer's daughter from Bansalan town, has been fishing on the Internet for only a month, but has already received marriage proposals from at least five men, who are all willing to come to town to meet her parents.

"*Akong pilion kadto gyung makatabang ug dako sa akong pamilya* (I'll eventually choose the one who will be able to help my family a lot)," she said.

Paula was introduced to the Internet by a friend who is now married to a US Air Force captain.

"*Hayahay iyang kinabuhi didto kay dako ug kita iyang bana* (Her life is better there because her husband earns a lot)," Paula said.

Of 106 respondents who said they were seeking Caucasians for future marriage, 78 preferred older Caucasian men, preferably between ages 40 and 50.

Thirty-three women named the United States as their country of preferred destination. Australia garnered 21 votes, and New Zealand, 18.

Germany, France and other European countries were least favored because men there are perceived as "*kuripot* (miserly)," according to some respondents.

IRC or Internet relay chat is one of the respondents' favorite tools (55 users), while the use of "messenger" programs such as Paltalk (15 users), AOL Instant Messenger (8) and Yahoo Messenger (5) is increasing.

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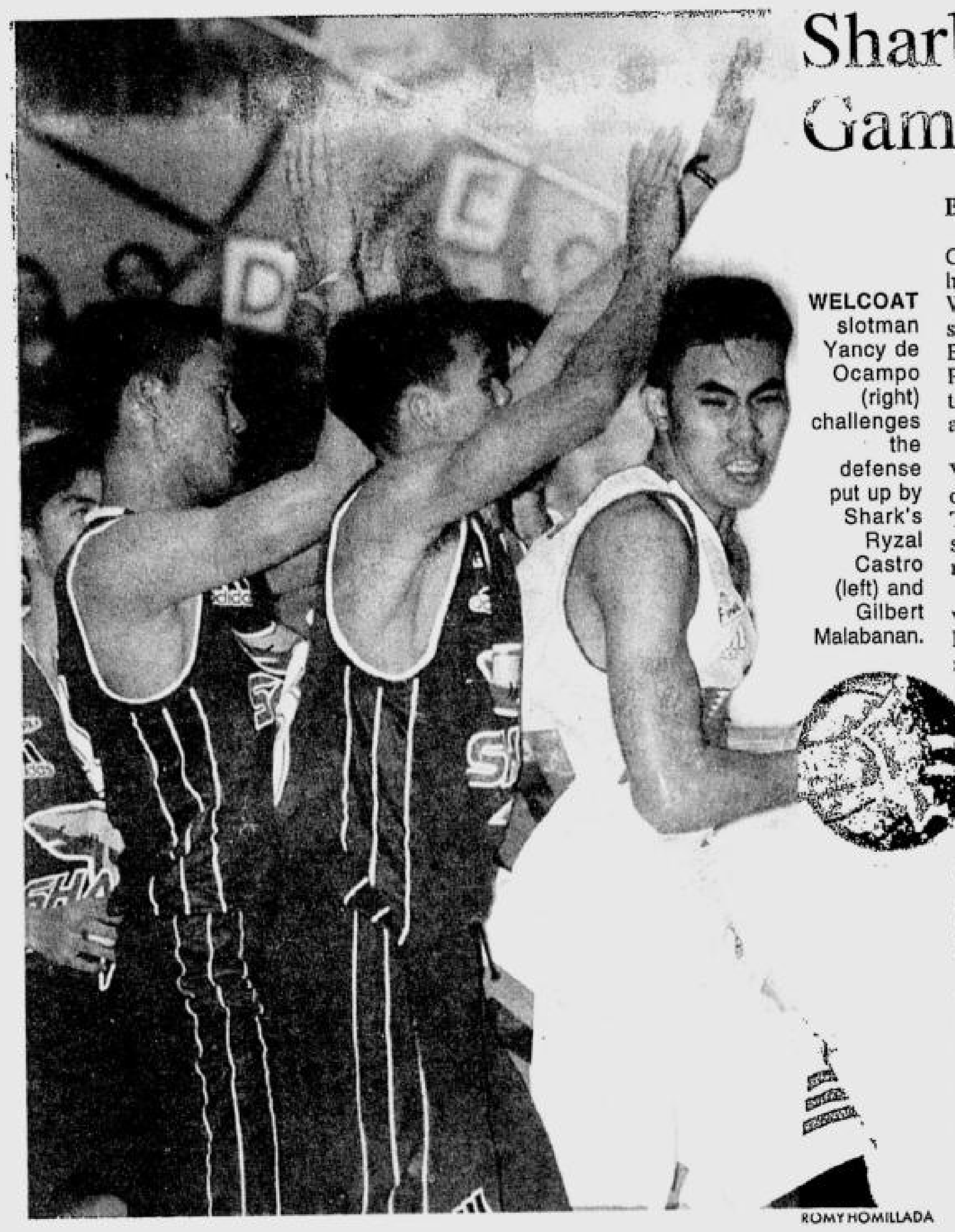
Welcoat grabs 3-2 margin



WELCOAT slotman Yancy de Ocampo (right) challenges the defense put up by Shark's Ryzal Castro (left) and Gilbert Malabanan.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Shark Energy Drink puts Game 5 under protest

BY DENNIS EROA

CEBUANO slasher Anton Villoria's high-looping, daredevil shot lifted Welcoat to a memorable 76-75 squeaker yesterday over Shark Energy Drink in Game Five of the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven title series before a delirious crowd at the Makati Coliseum.

But the story didn't end when Villoria's dramatic shot off the outstretched hands of Chester Tolomia and Irvin Sotto with 10 seconds remaining hit nothing but net.

In the ensuing play, Villoria was whistled for a foul on Shark gunner Roger Yap, who television replays showed was clearly in the act of shooting from rainbow territory, 1.7 ticks left before the final buzzer.

Class A referee Manolito Quilingen saw otherwise. To the dismay of the Shark bench, no free throws were awarded and an inbound was ordered. Veteran Jing Rodriguez, who also made the initial inbound to Yap, tried again but his alley-oop to Michael Robinson was deflected.

Shark, however, put the game under protest and Commissioner Chino Trinidad said he will decide on the matter tomorrow.

Welcoat thus took a 3-2 lead in the series after snapping a two-game losing streak against the Power Boosters, who appeared headed to a well-deserved win after Ryzal Castro's three-point play, 75-72, with 51 seconds left.

"That last call made the big difference," said a dejected Shark coach Leo Austria. "We executed very well till the last second."

Coach Junel Baculi, now on the threshold of steering the Paintmasters to their fourth straight crown, praised Shark for repeatedly coming back but lauded his charges for not losing their poise.

"We deserve to win this game and we're going for it on Tuesday," said Baculi.

In a classic encounter which showed both teams exciting the fans with their aggressive stance, Welcoat leaned on the hot hands of Ren Ren Ritualo, who finished with a night-high 25 points, spiked by seven triples, and the inside plays of Yancy de Ocampo to take command most of the way.

Shark, however, had enough bite remaining to stay in the hunt. Yap, Tolomia, Michael Robinson, Sotto and Castro exploited loopholes in Welcoat's defense, erasing a 64-52 deficit to deadlock the game, 72-72, en route to the wild and wooly finish.

De Ocampo kept Welcoat's hopes alive with an undergoal stab, 74-75, and Jojo Manalo set up Villoria for the last-second heroics by stealing a weak pass by Sotto to Castro underneath.

Scores:

WELCOAT 76—Ritualo 25, De Ocampo 16, Villoria 9, Manalo 7, Cruz 5, Tan 5, Patrimonio 3, Canlas 3, Pamintuan 2, Suba 0.

SHARK 75—Yap 19, Castro 18, Malabanan 10, Robinson 10, Tolomia 8, Sotto 5, Ybañez 5, Ortega 0, Rodriguez 0.

Quarters: 25-19, 45-45, 64-58, 76-75.

Chino's test

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

PEOPLE keep coming back to the Makati Coliseum because of the ongoing PBL Thrill. Suddenly, the basketball games there have become the talk of the town.

The PBL Thrill draws crowds because of its unadulterated action all the way, not just most of the way.

Over there, players dish it out without hesitation.

No laid back strategies. No readable tactics. No "telegraphable" plays. Offense is so undistinguishable at times that it's almost run-and-gun all the way. It's like watching Harrison Ford getting chased by the rock in the Raiders of the Lost Ark: You don't blink or you might suddenly miss a crucial part of the action. Over at the PBL, it's never-say-die from beginning to end.

Over there, it's really not over until it's over. It's like you are in a piano bar: It's not over until the fat lady sings.

Yesterday afternoon, it happened again.

Down by 3 points with seconds to go, Welcoat Paints uncorked 4 straight points to beat Shark Energy Drink by 1, 76-75.

Before that, it was virtually a won-game for Shark as it held a 3-point lead, 75-72, with 57 seconds left.

But 6-foot-9 Yancy de Ocampo tossed in one after eluding a double-team at the paint. Next, Anton Villoria sank a semi-hook looper against another double team after a bizarre Shark turnover.

Those four points gave Welcoat back the lead, 76-75, with 1.7 ticks left.

Then came that controversial call involving Roger Yap after a Shark timeout.

After receiving the inbound from Jing Rodriguez, Yap, Shark's moneyman, appeared like he was going to uncork a trey against two Welcoat defenders. But he got fouled down below, his motion to jump—the ball in an eye level and held by the right hand cocked to shoot—stopped by Villoria with a hard arm foul.

That call literally killed Shark's chances of winning the game because only .9 of a second was left.

But had the referee ruled Yap in the act of shooting, it would have totally changed the complexion, if not the outcome, of the game. Three free throws would have been awarded Yap.

It was as weird an ending as it could get. Suddenly, the league was suddenly thrown into a sort of a dilemma. Commissioner Chino Trinidad will have to agonize searching for a solution to a protest filed by Shark through its team owner Raul Panlilio. But whether Panlilio wanted the game's outcome nullified or not was not clear. He merely called Chino on the telephone to say he was putting the game under protest.

Suddenly, Chino's infant career as a league boss will suddenly be tested to the hilt.

Will he annul the game's outcome and order a replay?

Will he junk Shark's protest?

Or will he allow Yap to have those three free throws after ruling that Yap was, in fact, in the act of shooting when he got fouled?

Whatever, it's going to be a tough one to decide, Chino. What a way to spend a weekend.

Good luck, kiddo.

Kobe snubs media, fined

WASHINGTON —Reluctant All-Star Kobe Bryant was fined $ 10,000 by the NBA for missing Friday's media day.

Bryant and Los Angeles Lakers teammate Shaquille O'Neal were the only no-shows for the annual mass gathering with reporters.

Bryant said Wednesday he wanted to skip Sunday's All-Star game because of a sore right shoulder, but said he'll play because he doesn't want to risk being suspended. He was schedule to arrive in Washington late Friday.

O'Neal has already pulled out with a strained right foot, but he is in town this weekend making public appearances.

Arcilla lifts RP Cuppers to 1-0 edge

BY JONG ARCANO

JOHNNY Arcilla gave the hosts a 1-0 lead with a whirlwind effort against Sergi Makashin before rains came to the rescue of an embattled Adelo Abadia yesterday and forced the postponement of the Philippines-Tajikistan semifinal duel in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Group III tournament yesterday.

Arcilla, the country's top netter, defeated Makashin with a methodical 4-2, 4-2, 4-0 victory in just almost an hour of steady baseline play in the first singles match, giving compatriot Abadia the task of finishing off the enemy.

But Abadia lost the first set to Mansur Yakhyaev, 2-4. He got a big reprieve, however, when play was called before the second set started as the afternoon rains drenched the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Organizers waited for almost three hours before announcing the postponement of the match at 4 p.m.

The Kazakhstan-Singapore semis tiff and the no-bearing Saudi Arabia-Bahrain duel were also washed out.

Weather permitting, the crucial Abadia-Yakhynev encounter will resume at 9:30 a.m. today. The doubles match will immediately follow and the finals faces the possibility of being cancelled.

The Filipinos, who swept their three-game sked in Group A to advance to the crossover semis, need to win over Tajikistan to regain its place in Group II of the annual Davis Cup meet. The finalists here are guaranteed of elevation.

After losing to Indonesia and Iran last year, the Philippines was relegated to the lowest group .

Spain trailing

LONDON–Spain's first reign as Davis Cup champion might not last long.

Two months after a stunning victory over 27-time champion Australia in Barcelona, Spain trailed the Netherlands 2-0 after Friday's first round singles in Eindhoven.

One of the heroes of Barcelona in December, Juan Carlos Ferrero, suffered an unexpected loss to Raemon Sluiter and Carlos Moya went down 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 to Sjeng Schalken.

Playing on carpet indoors, Ferrero lost 6-7 (5), 7-6 (7), 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4 after three hours, 47 minutes.

In other World Group first round matches, Australia raced to a 2-0 lead against Ecu[illegible] in Perth, Germany and Romania were [illegible]-1, so were Switzerland and the Unit[illegible] [illegible]ce led Bel[illegible]m 2-0, Slovakia and Russ[illegible] [illegible]1-1 and Brazil took a 2-0 lead against [illegible] *AP*

Zamar's boys determined to defend SEAG crown

BY JUNE NAVARRO

AS far as Philippine men's basketball coach David Zamar is concerned, his team will focus on defending the Southeast Asian Games crown and brush aside politicking within the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

"Whatever happens, we will continue to train. It's their quarrel, not ours," said Zamar referring to the rift between BAP officials Freddie Jalasco and Tiny Literal.

With barely seven months left, Zamar bared the team, spiked by MBA stalwarts Rommel Adducul and John Ferriols, is cramming for its preparations to the Kuala Lumpur meet.

He will discuss the commitment of the team tomorrow with Jalasco, who remained basketball chief following the Philippine Olympic Committee's decision on the BAP row.

Directed by the Olympic body to hold an election, Jalasco said the development would enlighten the athletes and the coaching staff, who were puzzled over the two-month-old BAP rift.

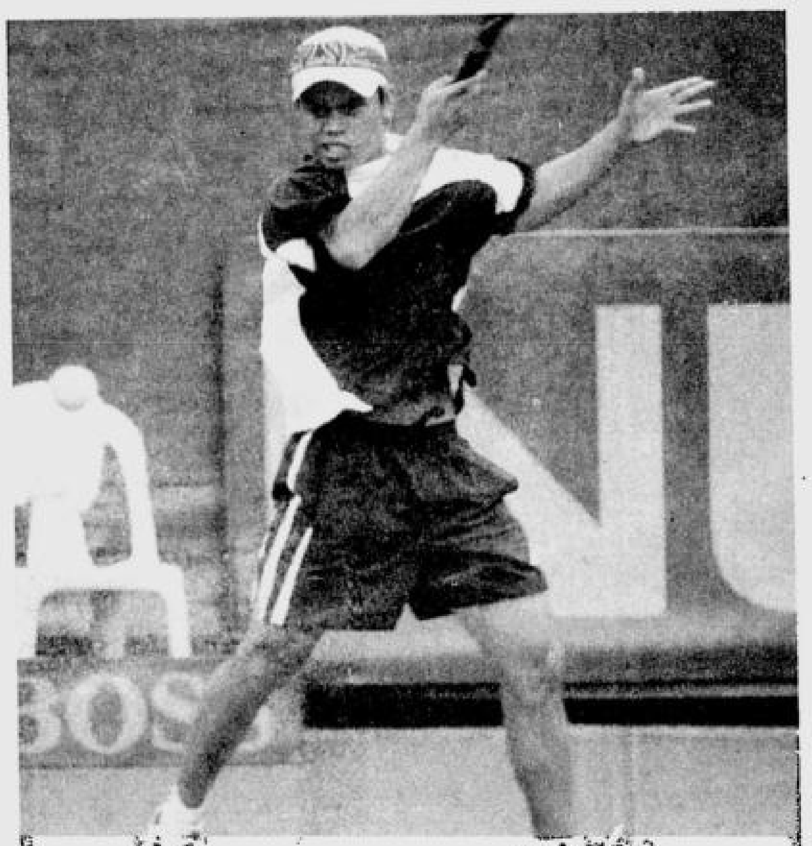
"The players and the coaching staff were confused," Jalasco told the INQUIRER. "Hopefully, this new development will remove the psychological strain the athletes had suffered."

Besides the confusion, Jalasco said the players were dragged into the fray instead of just concentrating on their training.

Last month, the players and some of the coaching staff staged a rally inside the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, denouncing the POC for interfering on the affairs of the BAP.

Spearheaded by Adducul and Ferriols, the RP men's team, mostly composed of MBA stars, will also have Peter Martin, Reuben Dela Rosa, Omanzie Rodriguez, Chito Victolero, Cris Calaguio, Homer Se, Stephen Padilla, Junel Mendiola, Eddie Laure and Egay Echavez to boost its lineup.

Pivotman Marc Pingris, Jomar Tierra and Adamson's Joshua Ramirez serve as alternates.



ARCILLA returns a shot to Makashin.

JESS YUSON

VALENTINE'S COCKFEST

Weights submission today

MORE than 50 entries to the RLB 12th Annual Valentine's 7-Cock Derby are expected to beat the deadline for submission of weights at the Mandaluyong Coliseum from 3-10 p.m. today.

Now on its 12th year, the two-night engagement sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lak Pue Drug Inc. kicks off with a 3-cock qualifier tomorrow Feb. 12 before concluding with the 4-cock final on Feb. 14. With this special event taking place on Monday and Wednesday, derby patrons won't have to wait a day longer for their usual Tuesday-Thursday Ucap competitions.

According to Fil-American host Richard Bates, gamecock enthusiasts will be assured of fast-paced, quality fights on this Valentine's fray. Expected to participate are the stalwarts from the United Cockers Association of the Philippines led by its president Butch Macasaet and the National Cockers Association contingent bannered by Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares.

Completing the cast are guest cockers Mike Romulo, Boy Lechon, Boy Garcia, Danny Ty, Romy Pamatmat, Cebu's Lupe Dorado, Bacolod's Felix Trebol and other invitees from Bulacan, Cavite, Zamboanga and Cagayan de Oro.

For inquiries, interested parties may call 747-4797, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

Love, Mickelson share Buick Open lead

SAN DIEGO—Phil Mickelson is weaker and 4.5 kilograms (10 pounds) lighter from a bout with food poisoning, but still in the same position he was at this time last year—tied for the lead going into the weekend of the Buick Invitational.

On what might be the last day of dry weather, Mickelson had an 8-under 64 on the easier North Course at Torrey Pines to pull into a share of the 36-hole lead with Davis Love III, who beat him out of a win last week at Pebble Beach.

Mickelson, who stopped Tiger Woods' PGA Tour winning streak at six when he won the Buick Invitational last year, was at 132 and hopeful that his best golf–not to mention a better physical condition–was ahead of him.

"As the week has gone on, I've slowly felt better and better," he said. "Hopefully, by tomorrow or Sunday I'll be 100 percent."

Love joined him at 12-under 132, although not the way he would have envisioned. After belting a couple of good drives on the practice range, Love hit only four fairways on a sunny, slightly breezy day on the bluffs over the Pacific Ocean.

"I was happy with my swing, but I got a little out of rhythm with my driver," said Love, who managed to make the best out of a scrappy round with a 67.

MICKELSON

First-round leader Brent Geiberger was another stroke back after a 69, while K.J. Choi had a 65 and was at 134.

Woods can't seem to play this tournament without flirting with a missed cut. He did that two years ago and came back to shoot 62-65 on the weekend and win. The "cut watch" was on last year, too, and Woods pulled himself together and was tied for the lead with five holes to play before finishing second.

This time, he was only five out of the lead and still battling the same symptoms–a bad swing at the worst time, and g[illegible] putts that seem to defy gravit[illegible]

He was at 2 under ar[illegible]ound the cut line until a [illegible]o-putt birdie on No. 9 of the South Course and a 30-foot eagle putt on the 13th. He wound up with a 67, just five strokes behind.

"I've been saying it all year–I'm not that far off," Woods said. "I just have to stay patient. I've been through this before and when it clicks, it's going to be pretty good."

Then, Woods lost his patience with a swarming mass of media, fans and marshals crowded behind the scoring tent, made a quick U-turn and was still visibly upset about the security as he rapped a few putts on the practice green. *AP*

Delasin 3 down

DOROTHY Joy Delasin hopes for a second career victory after shooting another 2-under-par 70 that kept her within three shots of the lead going into the third round of the LPGA Tour's Takefuji Classic at the Kona Country Club in Hawaii.

Delasin's 140 aggregate was good for a share of sixth place, not too far behind solo leader Annika Sorenstam of Sweden with a 67-137.

Sorenstam, launching her campaign for the 2001 season, led chief rival Karrie Webb and four others by two strokes.

Delasin, the PSA Athlete of the Year, is set to arrive Feb. 21 to launch the Dorothy Delasin Sports Foundation. Jennifer Rosales improved to a 73 but missed the cut at 151. *Jong Arcano*

'Karambola' derby slated

WITH more than 165 entries confirmed to see action, records in terms of participation and attendance are set to be broken when the forthcoming "Super Karambola 4-Cock Derby" takes center stage on Feb. 17, 20, 22, and 24 at Roligon.

Attracted by its rich prize purse of P1 million and a very affordable entry fee of P5,500, hordes of small and medium scale breeders from Metro Manila and neighboring provinces are set to compete.

"This is much better. In the provinces the highest prize is only P300,000 for even a higher entry fee. It's hard to win the championship, so, I'm making sure that if that luck comes I'll have bigger winnings in my hand," Rizal standout Benjie Ledesma of the Theresia entry stated.

Jeter inks $189-M deal

NEW YORK — Derek Jeter and the New York Yankees agreed Friday to a $189 million, 10-year contract after more than 13 months of negotiations. "I never intended to play elsewhere," Jeter said, "and to be honest with you, never intended to look elsewhere." *AP*

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

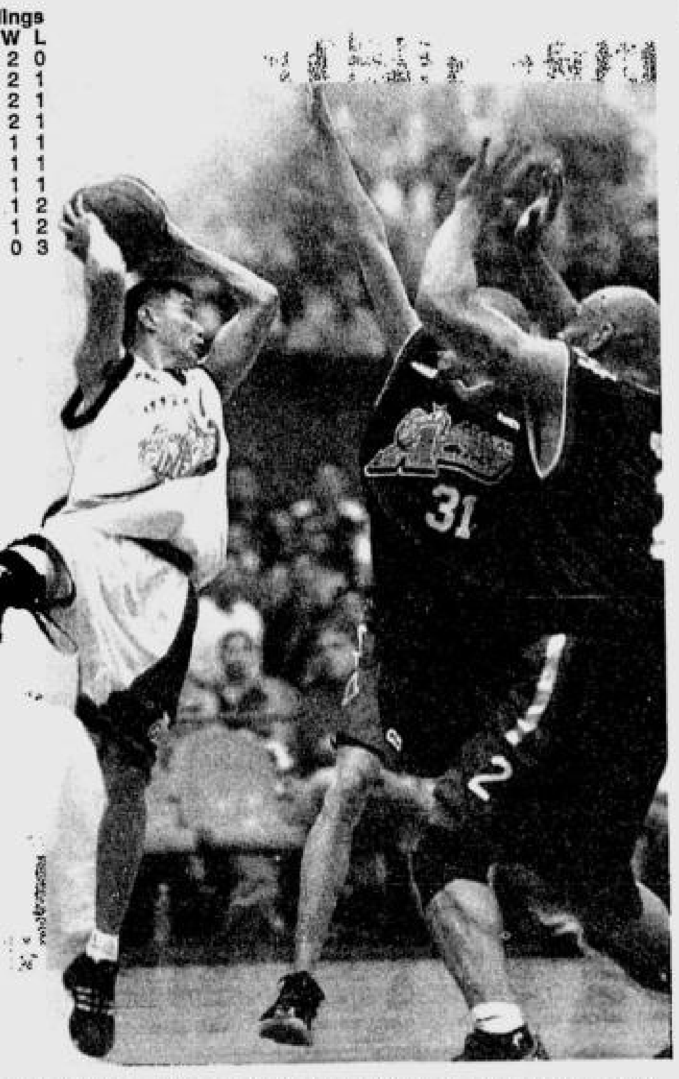
Bowe denies accusations

HEMPSTEAD, New York—Riddick Bowe posted bail Friday after his arrest on charges he hit his wife in the head, dragged her across their home and threatened her life. The 33-year-old former heavyweight champion pleaded innocent to assault charges and paid $2,500 in bail before being released.

SMB shoots for 3-0 slate vs Pop

PBA standings

	W	L
SMB	2	0
Purefoods	2	1
Ginebra	2	1
Shell	2	1
Pop Cola	1	1
Mobiline	1	1
Red Bull	1	1
Alaska	1	2
Tanduay	1	2
Sta. Lucia	0	3



ROMY HOMILLADA

BAL David of Barangay Ginebra (left) looks for an open teammate as Alaska defenders John Arigo (31) and Ali Peek (right) block his path during their game Friday night. The Gin Kings won, 63-55.

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m.—Pop Cola vs SMB
6:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Mobiline

EVEN with a clean 2-0 record, co-leader San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico said his team has yet to prove its worth in the PBA All-Filipino Cup.

Uichico added that the Beermen's victories over Barangay Ginebra and Sta. Lucia Realty don't serve as accurate gauge for their strength because those two teams are now experiencing contrasting fates.

For Uichico, San Miguel's match-up against vaunted Pop Cola today at the Araneta Coliseum will be the first of the crucial games ahead for the most successful franchise the past two seasons.

Mobiline and Batang Red Bull are shooting for a second win against each other in the second game at 6:30 p.m.

"I think we still need to win against a strong team like Pop Cola to truly determine our capability," Uichico told the INQUIRER. "Until then, we can't tell how we'll fare in this conference."

Incidentally, this is the only conference that's missing in the Beermen's prized collection, losing it in 1999 and 2000, while sweeping the Commissioner's and Governors Cups the past two years.

"Our main concern in our lack of slotman," said Uichico. "Once Danny I (Ildefonso) and Danny S (Seigle) are double-teamed, we find it hard to search for a go-to guy. And the game plan of the other teams are very simple, they'll just put their best defenders on the two."

That proved correct during their scrambling 89-76 win over Sta. Lucia where Ildefonso and Seigle were effectively silenced and had to be bailed out by Nic Belasco.

Against the Panthers (1-1), however, the Beermen will be faced with an equally formidable forefront. But Uichico was especially wary of Nelson Asaytono, who is back in shape after emerging from almost a year of hiatus due to injury.

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Shell upends P'foods

LIPA, Batangas—Michael Hrabak finally showed his worth, scoring nine of his 15 points in the third quarter as Shell Velocity inflicted Purefoods' first loss, 77-67, last night in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the La Salle Lipa gym here.

Shedding his patsy image he got after two lackluster games, Hrabak imposed himself inside as the Zoom Masters scored their second win in three games to tie the Hotdogs.

The 6-foot-7 second-round draft pick turned in a game expected of him, leading the Zoom Masters just when Benjie Paras and Mark Telan were having trouble in getting their rhythm going.

Shell completely dominated the game, pulling away by as many as 25 points, holding Alvin Patrimonio to just eight points and leaving the rest of Purefoods groping for form throughout.

The Zoom Masters had an intense practice after losing to Batang Red Bull, 76-60, last week, fittingly showing the extent of their rage by taking down the erstwhile unbeaten Hotdogs.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Scores:

SHELL 77 – Hrabak 15, Singson 13, Jackson 12, Wainwright 12, Paras 8, Esplana 7, Telan 6, Dualan 2, Dela Cruz 0, Marzan 0.

PUREFOODS 67 – Seigle 23, Castillo 12, Evangelista 10, Patrimonio 8, Feihl 6, Yee 5, Pumaren 2, Fernandez 0.

Quarters: 26-12, 45-30, 64-49, 77-67.

Unprotecting the betting public

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

AFTER confusion reigned at the Santa Ana Park last Jan. 26, thousands of *kareristas* cursed not only the Philippine Racing Club and management of the Dividendazo racing program, but also the Philippine Racing Commission.

The racing body has once again showed its insensitivity when it comes to solving problems involving the *bayang kareristas* who felt "robbed" on that "memorable" night.

Did the racing body call for an investigation? Did it also ask the PRCI and Dividendazo managements to explain their sides?

As far as the *kareristas* are concerned, the answer is a big NO because the Estrada-appointed Philracom leadership never lets the betting public get wind of its affairs.

It can be recalled that during that racing night, horse War General, whose name was not printed on the Dividendazo, went on to win Race 8, to the consternation of fans.

Yes, there were previous announcements that War General was indeed running in that race but those were not enough to inform the the poor *kareristas* properly.

What everybody wants is a clear answer or explanation on why War General was not printed in the Dividendazo on that particular day and why the horse was eventually allowed to run.

Ching Vicente, the grizzled trainer with the keen eye on several Philracom miscues, sent the Philracom his reactions on that incident night and he wants it to share them with the *bayang kareristas:*

Kagalang galang na Komisyon,

May insidente pong nangyari sa Sta. Ana last Jan. 26, *Biyernes, sa* Race 8 *kung saan ang kabayong* War General (No. 11) *ang nanalo at tinalo si* Alexander *na* outstanding favorite.

Lumabas ang programa ng Dividendazo *at libu-libong kopya ang ibinenta sa bayang karerista pero wala sa listahan si* War General.

Sabi ng management *ng* Sta. Ana *na inabiso nila sa publiko noong* Miyerkoles, Jan. 24, *na sa* Race 8 *na* No. 11 *si* War General.

Pero bakit nagbolahan noong Martes ng hapon (Jan. 23) *hindi napasama si* War General *sa* mimeographed copy *ng bolahan?.*

Sino ba ang nagkamali si Boying Gariplan (handicapper) *o si* PRCI manager Andy Maramag? *Dapat nirebisa nila mabuti, pagkatapos ng bolahan bago ma-*mimeograph *ang kopya ng pinagbolahan at bago ipinamigay sa mga* trainers *at may-ari ng kabayo.*

Malaking pagkakamali at perwisyo sa bayang karerista ang nangyari.

Kung ating maalala, ang handicapper *ng* San Lazaro *na si* Oscar Dizon *na siyang pumalit kay* Met de la Cruz *ay nasibak dahil sa di niya napasama ang tatlong kabayo ng isang* horseowner *sa bolahan.*

Ang daing ng bayang karerista? Dapat malaman ang kasagutan ng Sta. Ana *at* Philracom *ang tunay na nangyari sa insidenteng yon.*

Mga kagalang galang na miyembro ng komisyon, huwag po kayong magtulug-tulugan at magbingi-bingihan sa nangyari.

Bigyan ninyo ng proteksyon ang bayang karerista bilang tungkulin ninyo. Umaksyon kayo!

Inaasahan ng bayang karerista ang inyong pagtupad sa tungkulin. Inaasahan din ng bayang karerista ang inyong kasagutan nang di mawalan ng tiwala sa inyo at sa management *ng* Sta. Ana *ang mga mananaya.*

Ching Vicente

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
US NCAA - Seton Hall Pirates vs Syracuse Orangemen at 8 a.m. on ESPN
NBA All-Star Saturday Night at 9 a.m. (r- 9 p.m.) on Star Sports
Chinese National Basketball League, Quarterfinals at 11:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, Day Three at 1 p.m. (delayed) on Star Sports
LPGA Takefuji Classic, Final Round at 4:30 p.m. on ESPN
Golfglobe 2001 at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Miss New York 2. Red Thunder 3. Ilustrado 4. Field Master
Race 2—1. Terrific 2. Tenacity 3. Alexander
Race 3—1. Amazing Joe 2. Foreign Exchange 3. Mega Top
Race 4—1. Sky Hawk 2. Regalberto 3. Powerhouse 4. Sheer Courage 5. Galvalume
Race 5—1. Rock's Dragon 2. Two Thumbs Up 3. Free Radical 4. Burning Heart 5. Sweet Inspiration
Race 6—1. Lovely Luigi 2. Fortune Maker 3. Imperial Passion 4. Aprey Special
Race 7—1. Padron real 2. Boomerang 3. Cycloneferros 4. Charming Belle 5. Samahan
Race 8—1. High Roller 2. Power Drive 3. Bound to Be 4. Gallant Quest
Race 9—1. Be Ready 2. He's Splendid 3. Rainmaker 4. Houdini 5. Black Force
Race 10—1. Bandido 2. Aurora Borealis 3. Little Timothy 4. Law Student
Race 11—1. Time Capsule 2 Cara Bambina 3. Lady Witty 4. Corporate Law
Race 12—1. Cougar 2. Bullhorn 3. El Robusto 4. Flirting Hero
Race 13—1. Reign of Glory 2. Roman Queen 3. Ang Seaman 4. Mr. Positive 5. Duke Mark
Race 14—1. Freshman/ Native Talent 2. El Bulldog 3. Bulwak 4. Sir Piker
Race 15—1. Gallant Rose 2. Crisel Joy 3. Filthy Rich 4. Ayos Ba There 5. Ampere

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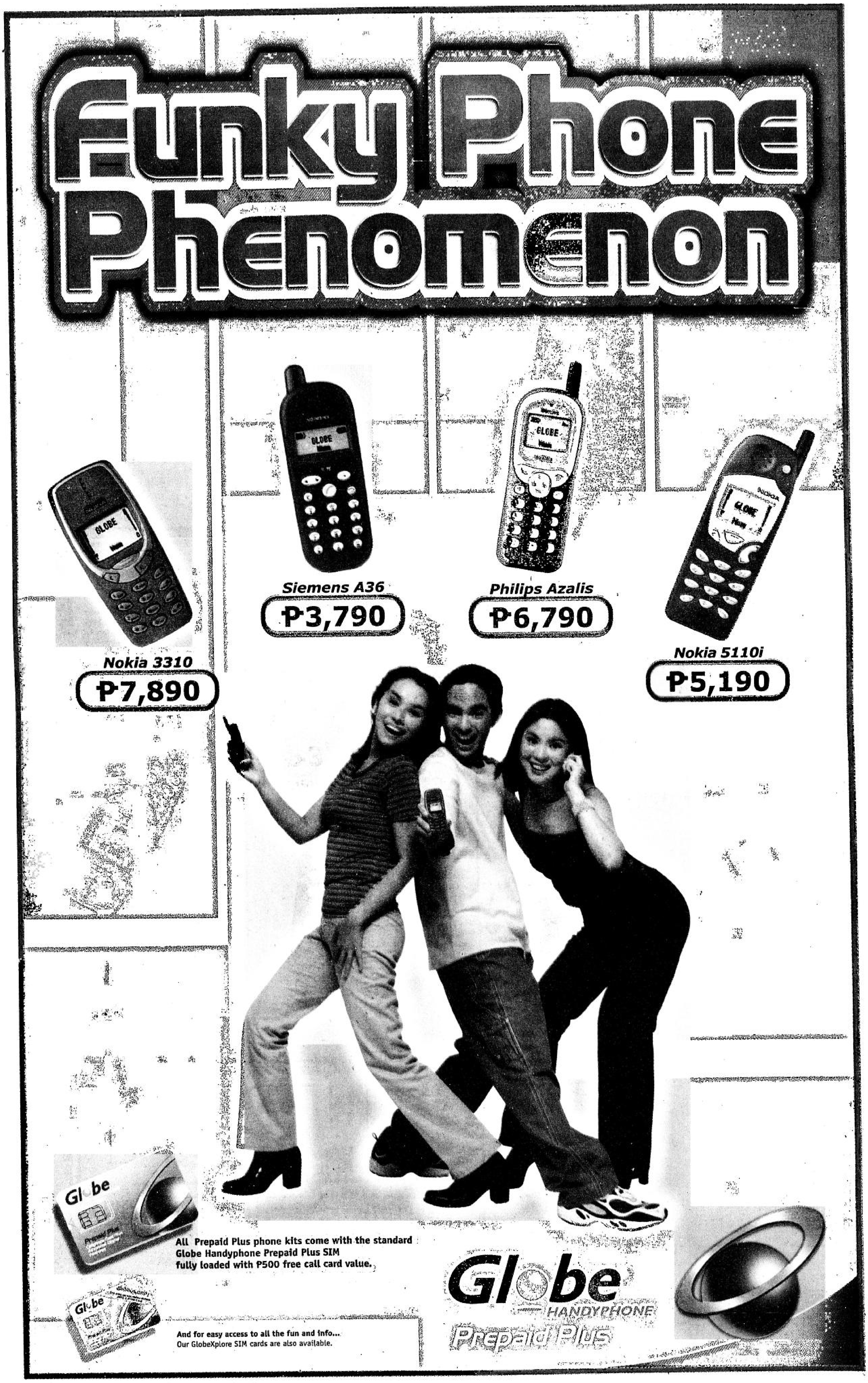

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QC precinct chief accused of beating up 2 KTV men A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Eleven people hurt in San Andres fire A22

Movie stars insist they have 'fighting chance'

FERNANDEZ

Candidates warned on campaign posters A22

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE SUN may have set on the political career of deposed President Estrada, but that has not deterred other movie actors from running in the May elections.

Mayoral candidates Rudy Fernandez of Quezon City and Vice Mayor Edu Manzano of Makati both believe they have a "fighting chance" in the elections despite the perceived backlash against actor-politicians following Estrada's ouster.

"That should not affect any incumbent who had built (a solid) track record," Manzano told reporters yesterday during the weekly press forum at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City. "Though I admit that many are thinking we may have lost some 'pogi' points, the people would still be looking at the track record of the candidate."

Manzano, the administration party candidate, is facing a formidable opponent in former Metro Manila Development Authority chair Jejomar Binay, who is bent on becoming the next Makati mayor, a position currently held by his wife Elenita.

Fearful of Binay's political machinery, Manzano cited the last elections where people were hurt and even killed.

"The will of the people might be subverted," Manzano said. "Makati has a history of massive fraud. That kind of harassment and intimidation has no place in a civilized society which Makati is supposed to represent."

MOVIE/A22

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Security guard shot dead by 2 colleagues

By Alcuin Papa

FOR calling two security guards "rapists," Elmer Coronel got a shotgun blast to the stomach on Friday in Las Piñas.

Suspects Franklin Agustin, 30, and Danilo Martinez, 48, both residents of Blk 12, Lot 2, VVV, Dasmariñas, Cavite, worked for the RP Guardian Security Agency and were assigned to Martinville Subdivision in Las Piñas, police said.

Coronel, 26, also a security guard and a resident of Manukan Street, CAA compound, BF International, Talon, Las Piñas, saw Agustin and Martinez about to buy *balut* on Manukan Street at about 5 p.m. when he called out to them and then allegedly shouted "rapists," police said.

Agustin and Martinez confronted Coronel, police said.

The three men argued until an angry Agustin fired a warning shot with his service shotgun.

Frightened, Coronel ran.

Agustin chased Coronel and, when he caught up with him, he reportedly fired another round, killing Coronel instantly, police said.

When Martinez arrived at the scene, bystanders were about to close in and beat up Agustin. Martinez was forced to fire two warning shots with his own shotgun.

But the mob turned on Martinez, while Agustin managed to escape.

Martinez is now detained at the Las Piñas City Jail, while police are hunting down Agustin.

Former Metro aide loses retirement pay to gang

A RETIRED Metro aide lost her retirement pay of P115,000 to members of a swindling gang in Makati City on Friday.

Elena Avila, 64, and a resident of Besita Street, Sta. Cruz, Makati City, said the incident happened at about 1:30 p.m. Friday at the corner of De la Rosa and Herrera streets in Makati.

Avila said two unidentified men approached her and managed to convince her to invest her money in a supposed business venture.

The two men also were able to convince her to board an FX taxi to go to the Banco de Oro branch in Sta. Cruz; Manila so she could withdraw her retirement fund.

"I felt like I was hypnotized," Avila told police. "I just followed what they told me to do, which was to withdraw my retirement fund from the bank and give it to them in exchange for a bag that supposedly contained a much bigger amount."

After getting her money, the two men left her standing in front of the bank, Avila said. When she looked inside the bag that they had given her, she saw that it contained only wads of paper that were cut to the size of peso bills. *Alcuin Papa*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 11, 2001
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Jer 17:5-8*

This is what Yahweh says,

"Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings and depends on a mortal for his life, while his heart is drawn away from Yahweh!

He is like a bunch of thistles in dry land, in parched desert places, in a salt land where no one lives and who never finds happiness.

Blessed is the man who puts his trust in Yahweh and whose confidence is in him! He is like a tree planted by the water, sending out its roots toward the stream.

He has no fear when the heat comes, his leaves are always green; the year of drought is no problem and he can always bear fruit."

Second Reading: *I Cor 15:12, 16-20*

If Christ is preached as risen from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith gives you nothing, and you are still in sin. Also those who fall asleep in Christ are lost. If it is only for this life that we hope in Christ, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But no, Christ has been raised from the dead and he comes before all those who have fallen asleep.

Gospel: *Lk 6:17, 20-26*

Coming down the hill with them, Jesus stood on a level place. Many of his disciples were there and a large crowd of people who had come from all parts of Judea and Jerusalem and from the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon.

Then lifting up his eyes to his disciples, Jesus said,

"Fortunate are you who are poor, the kingdom of God is yours."

Fortunate are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Fortunate are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Fortunate are you when people hate you, when they reject you and insult you and number you among criminals, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. Remember that is how the ancestors of this people treated the prophets.

But alas for you who have wealth, for you have been comforted now.

Alas for you who are full, for you will go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

Alas for you when people speak well of you, for that is how the ancestors of these people treated the false prophets."

Commentary

Makarios (meaning "blessed, or happy, or fortunate") is the Greek word at the start of each one of these so-called "beatitudes". It is the most common translation for the Hebrew term 'ashre' which literally means the "footsteps"—perhaps to indicate that a person's fortune is determined by the direction that his footsteps take. Others relate a person's fortune to the palad, the palm of his/her hand. I do not think this has to do with the lines that are often read there by fortune-tellers. It is rather about the fact that a palm suggests an "Open hand" which is the same image used to describe both poverty (as in a beggar's open hand) and abundance (as in a philantropist's open hand). Only a person disposed to open his hand both as an admission of poverty and as an expression of generosity is truly blessed.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—Treachery cannot be considered against the appellants. For treachery to be present, two conditions must concur: (1) the employment of means of execution that gives the person attacked no opportunity to defend himself or retaliate; and (2) the deliberate and conscious adoption of the means employed. The witness did not see the inception of the assault on the victim. When he reached the crime scene, the victim was already sprawled on the ground, face up, moaning and having a faint sigh while appellants were surrounding her. Appellant was then in the process of inserting the cassava trunk inside the genitalia of the victim. Absent any particulars as to the manner in which the aggression commenced or how the act that resulted in the death of the victim unfolded, treachery cannot be appreciated. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Bonito, G.R. No. 128002, October 10, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

QC precinct chief accused of beating up 2 KTV men

By Philip C. Tubeza

A CENTRAL Police District (CPD) precinct commander is in hot water for allegedly beating up a KTV bar doorman and a parking attendant before dawn yesterday in Quezon City.

Inspector Cesar Tapalla Gerente was invited to the CPD-Criminal Investigation Unit for questioning after doorman Roger M. Unabia, 28, of Pleasant Hills Subdivision, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, and parking attendant Jojo Santos, 19, filed a complaint against him, said investigator PO3 Ferdinand Paredes.

The two men are both employees of Eye-Ses Disco Club on Regalado Avenue Extension in North Fairview, Quezon City. They alleged that Gerente beat them up with the help of some of his men.

They said Gerente drove to his office to get money to pay his bill in the KTV bar. The alleged beating happened when he returned and accused the two men of not looking after his car, an old model white Ford.

Unabia said he was standing at the entrance when he saw Gerente arrive with six other policemen, four of whom were in uniform and two in civilian clothes, at about 3:30 a.m. The group allegedly began beating up Santos in an empty lot beside the bar, Unabia said.

"I did not know then who he was," Unabia said. "His companions who were in uniform did not have nameplates."

After beating Santos, they turned on him, Unabia said.

"He grabbed me by the collar and then he started punching and kicking me," Unabia said of Gerente.

He said that with the help of his men, Gerente dragged him inside the bar and continued beating him and banging his head on the wall.

"He then took a handcuff and hit me on my left temple," Unabia said.

Gerente and his companions then went upstairs to pay the officer's P4,000 bill.

Unabia thought that was the end of his suffering in the hands of Gerente. He was wrong.

He was already being comforted by his wife Amy outside the bar when Gerente came out and beat him up again, he said.

"He beat me up in front of my wife," the complainant said.

He said Gerente told him he had to go with them. "They did not say where and so I told them that my wife should go with me," Unabia said.

The group took the couple to the police precinct in front of SM Fairview. Unabia said he saw on the police bulletin board who Gerente was.

Gerente's anger abated only after he saw Unabia's boss arrive with a policeman from the Fairview police station.

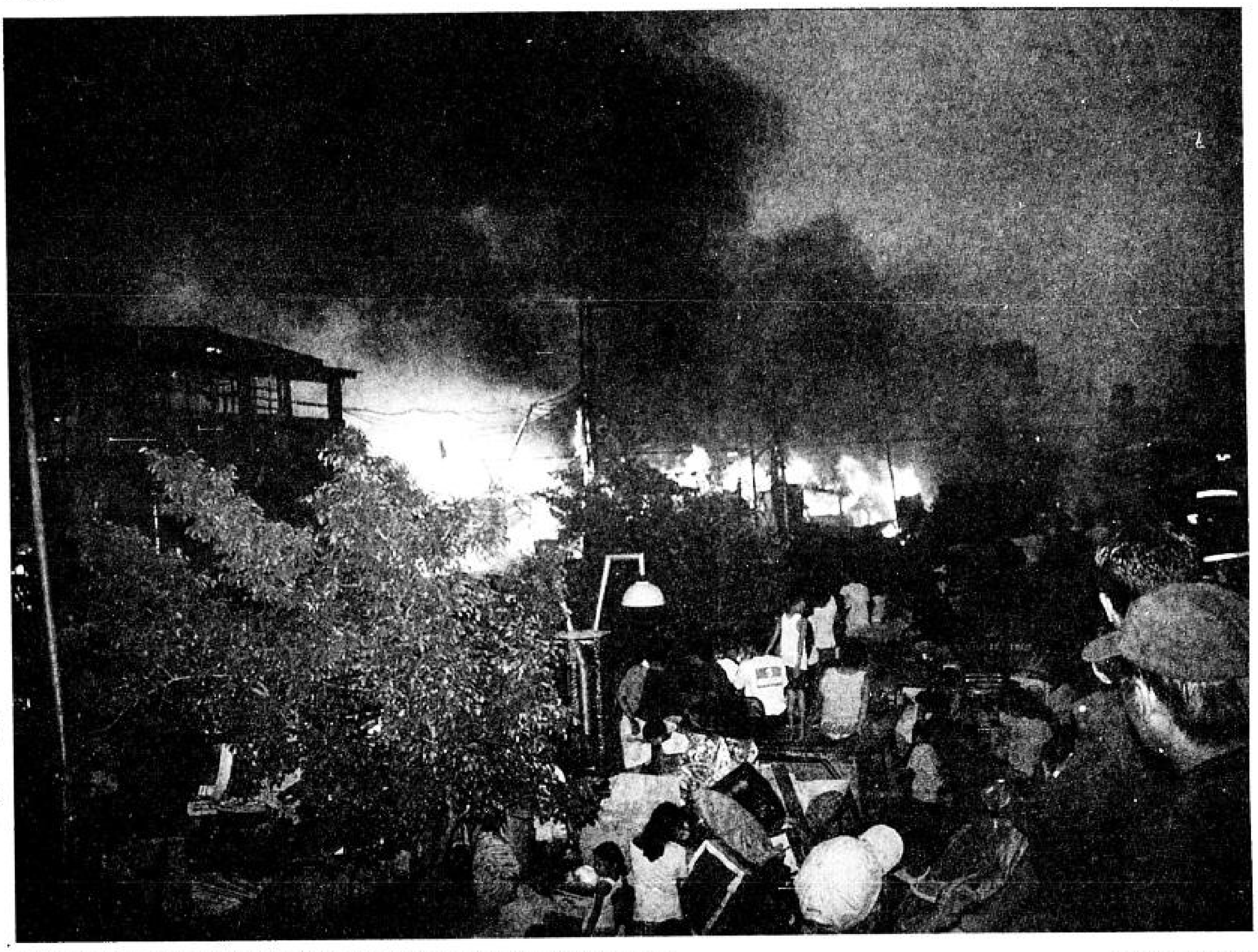
"He said that we should patch things up and forget about what happened," Unabia said.

He said he refused.

Unabia and Santos went to the CIU yesterday to file their complaint. Paredes said Gerente was supposed to also go there yesterday to air his side.

But as of 2 p.m., Paredes said he was still waiting for the police official.

Gerente is facing charges of physical injuries, according to Paredes.



SLEEPLESS residents watch helplessly as their homes go up in smoke. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Eleven people hurt in San Andres fire

ELEVEN people, including two old men, were injured while some 3,000 families lost their homes when a fire struck at the boundary of San Andres Bukid, Manila and Makati City yesterday morning.

The five-hour blaze ravaged two densely populated blocks and destroyed more than 1,000 houses.

It reached "general alarm"—the highest fire alert level—which required all fire-fighting units in the National Capital Region to respond.

Chief Insp. Fennimore Jaudian, head of the city fire department's arson division, identified the injured as Rufino Rapez, 84; Simeon Espinosa, 72; Raul Langit, 30; Renato Liparez, 35; Eula Cadan, 33; Andrel Ruiz, 16; Rene Dagohoy, 29; Elmer Villona, 27; Ariel Brasmin, 27; Lazaro Amor, 35 and Roel Apitorio, 21.

Medical units from the Philippine National Red Cross and the city health department treated the injured who suffered minor burns as well as cuts and bruises caused by falling debris.

Jaudian said the fire began around 5:30 a.m. on the second floor of a house owned by Alberto Librado on Onyx Street.

Witnesses claimed they heard an explosion from inside the house, which they said could have been from a leaking liquefied petroleum gas tank.

A slight breeze fanned the fire which quickly spread to neighboring houses.

The blaze engulfed two city blocks on Estrada Street, from Onyx to Radium and Chromium Streets, and then crossed over to Makati, consuming hundreds of shanties in Barangay La Paz and Singkamas.

Firefighters were hard-pressed controlling the blaze because of the narrow streets which their firetrucks could not enter.

Also, the streets were crammed with appliances, furniture and other belongings of residents who were desperately trying to save them from the flames.

The blaze was finally put out around 10 a.m.

Manila Mayor Atienza and Councilor Cita Astals, both residents of the area, distributed relief goods. The mayor promised to help the affected residents.

The homeless were sheltered at the Holy Family parish church and in various health centers, barangay halls and public schools in San Andres and Makati City.

Fire officials said damages could easily exceed P10 million.

Jerome Aning

Bets warned on putting up posters

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday warned local and national candidates to limit the campaign posters they will put up in public areas designated by the Commission on Elections, or he would have the posters scraped or torn down.

Atienza said the indiscriminate pasting of posters is ruining Manila's cleanliness and could cause candidates to lose votes. He cited Taft Avenue, where plant boxes, lampposts and even posts of the Light Rail Transit are slowly being enveloped by campaign posters.

Campaign streamers and billboards have also been put up on trees, he said. Very soon, even underpasses, overpasses and walls of government and private buildings will be plastered with posters, he said.

"We are putting these candidates on notice," the mayor said. "We in Manila worked hard to revive our city and to maintain its cleanliness. We will show our displeasure when we cast our votes."

He called on voters in Manila to remember the names of the erring candidates and not to vote for them. He also ordered the police to arrest people who put campaign paraphernalia in areas not designated by the Comelec.

He said cleaning up walls and other structures plastered with posters is a major undertaking because starch is often used as the adhesive. He said City Hall workers would have to repaint the surface.

Movie stars insist . . .

(From page A21)

He said he is confident that civil society would not allow harassment and intimidation.

"The political dynamics have changed," he said. "What is scaring traditional politicians is the vigilance of students, people's organizations, NGOs, after Edsa II. The question is how to sustain this new passion up to May."

To become mayor of Quezon City, Fernandez will have to fend off House Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte and Mayor Ismael Mathay's son, Chuck.

"I believe my chances haven't changed," Fernandez said. "The voters of Quezon City are broadminded. I think they would base their choices on the candidate's individual capacity to serve and not on his or her professional background."

The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), which recently broke ties with the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), has adopted Fernandez as a guest candidate.

Fernandez, who remained loyal to Estrada to the end, said the "minority" should not impose its political views on the voting public.

Cause-oriented groups and people's organizations that actively campaigned against Estrada had earlier called on the voters to reject those who supported him.

"In my case, I could have gone to the other side and appear on stage at Edsa and become a hero, but I did not," said Fernandez, who is close to the Estrada family, particularly the former President's son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada.

Fernandez is not daunted by his opponents' well-oiled political machines. Like Estrada, he is relying on the poor to carry him to city hall.

He said he would try to solve Quezon City's big squatter problem by supporting onsite development and preventing more squatters from relocating to the city.

Fernandez also said he did not intend to "hurt the feelings" of fellow actor and former Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, whom he dislodged as the LDP's mayoral candidate.

If he wins the election, Fernandez vowed to close down the controversial Payatas landfill in Quezon City.

The July 10, 2000 Payatas landslide killed more than 200 people and injured scores of others.

Fernandez said his team is studying the possibility of converting Payatas into a "composting and recycling site."

He also believes that garbage segregation is the long-term solution to the waste problem.

Jealous man kills friend and himself

EXTREME jealousy drove a house painter to stab 20 times his best friend, whom he suspected of flirting with his wife, and to kill himself, too, in Caloocan City on Thursday.

Feliciano Gecha, 39, of Sapang Palay, Bulacan, died before he could be brought to the Tala General Hospital in Caloocan after he stabbed himself in the chest early Thursday afternoon.

Before killing himself, Gecha stabbed Reynaldo Raymundo at least 20 times. Raymundo, a resident of Waling-Waling Street, Barrio San Roque in Tala, Caloocan, was the godfather of Gecha's children, police said.

PO3 Rolando Franco of the Caloocan City police station 1 said Gecha barged into Raymundo's house while Raymundo was eating lunch with his wife and children.

Gecha drew a knife and stabbed Raymundo many times, right in front of his stunned wife and children.

Gecha then locked himself in his own house, just a few meters away from Raymundo's.

When barangay watchmen went to Gecha's house, they found him bleeding. He had plunged the knife in his chest all the way to his heart, police said. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Carlo Caparas to produce and direct Popoy Lagman biopic

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

CARLO Caparas, the box-office director of many true-to-life movies, particularly massacre flicks, is planning to produce a film on the historic Edsa Dos.

Caparas is also interested in making the biopic of slain labor leader **Popoy Lagman**. Last year, the two men reportedly saw each other at Bistro Lorenzo and Lagman himself told Caparas he wanted the latter to do the movie on his life.

"*Maganda ang* ending *nito*," Lagman was said to have told Caparas.

Caparas will direct the movie and produce it with his wife **Donna Villa**, through their outfit Golden Lion Films.

Caparas hasn't been visible for quite a long while although he has been busy directing the daily TV series, "Pangarap Kong Jackpot," produced by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to boost lotto sales. The series airs on ABC-5.

Aside from his return to filmmaking, Caparas is being wooed to join politics. He was reportedly offered to run for Rizal governor or Pasig mayor.

Caparas is a son of Pasig, where he has had a number of charitable projects.

Caparas donated an ambulance to Pasig and maintains a steady number of scholars. The city even honored the moviemaker by naming a street after him.

But we heard that his wife Donna would rather have him direct movies instead of going into politics.

The director-producer tandem of Caparas and Villa has set an unprecedented record in box office history. Golden Lions is behind such hits as "The Vizconde Massacre," "The Myrna Diones Story" "Bubbles" and "The Maggie de la Riva Story."

Caparas and Villa are also setting their sights on the real estate business in Cebu, Villa's home province where they plan to build a resort. Villa's family had sold Marian Shangri-La, which is now known as the Mactan Shangri-La.

Happy birthday, Mr. M!

IT'S the birthday today of ABS-CBN's top-notch film and TV director, **Johnny Manahan.**

Mr. M, as *Direk* Johnny is fondly called in the ABS-CBN family, is the vice president of the network's Talent Development and Management Center (TDMC), which he put up nearly a decade ago as a venue for launching fresh faces who later on become the network's contract stars. With ABS-CBN executives **Federico Garcia** and **Charo Santos-Concio,** TDMC came up with the phenomenal "Ang TV," which featured budding artists who are now certified stars. Among the "Ang TV" graduates are **Claudine Barretto, Jolina Magdangal, Victor Neri, Rica Peralejo, Patrick Garcia, Roselle Nava** and **Angelu de Leon.**

Mr. M continues to discover new talents. Through Star Circle, a new generation of artists has been catapulted to stardom. Among them are **Rico Yan, Diether Ocampo, Marvin Agustin, Jericho Rosales, Piolo Pascual, Vanessa del Bianco, Paolo Contis, Carol Banawa** and **Kristine Hermosa.**

Today, the ABS-CBN Talent Center is considered as the country's premiere star-maker, with more than 200 actors, actresses, singers, stage per-

CAPARAS/A26

GOLDEN Lions Films couple Carlo Caparas and Donna Villa with their children CJ and Peach.

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BOUNCE - P 13
11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00

VERTICAL LIMIT - P 13
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

BOUNCE - P 13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

PROOF OF LIFE - P 13
11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

THE CONTENDER - P 13
1:15, 3:50, 6:25, 9:00

WHAT WOMEN WANT - P 13
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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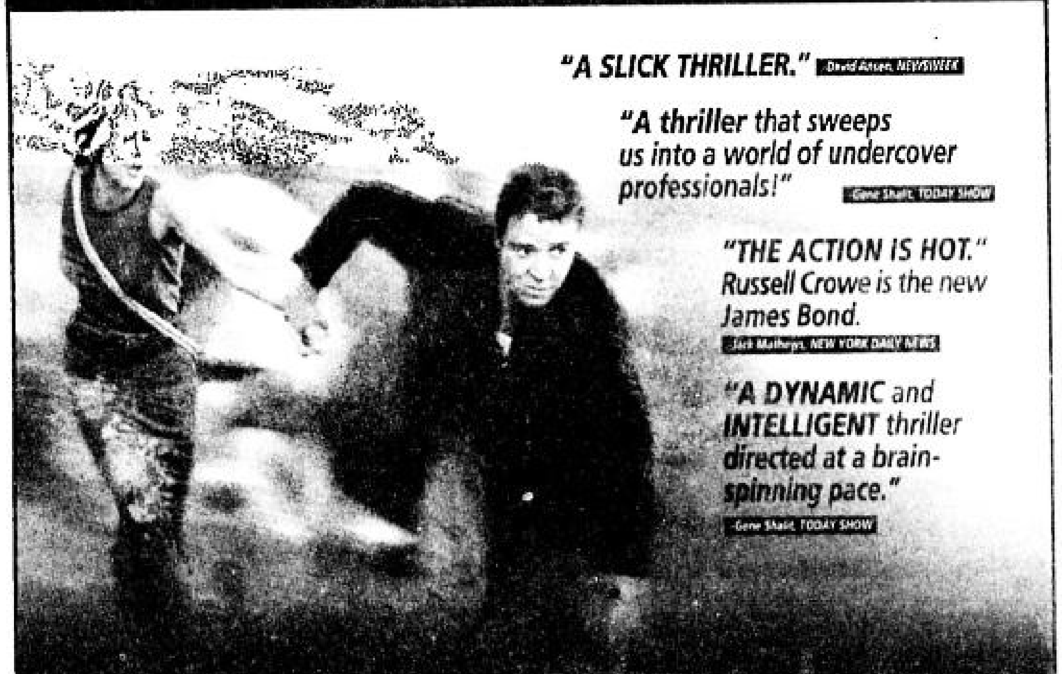
"A SLICK THRILLER." David Ansen, NEWSWEEK
"A thriller that sweeps us into a world of undercover professionals!" Gene Shalit, TODAY SHOW
"THE ACTION IS HOT." Russell Crowe is the new James Bond. Jack Mathews, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
"A DYNAMIC and INTELLIGENT thriller directed at a brain-spinning pace." Gene Shalit, TODAY SHOW

MEG RYAN | RUSSELL CROWE
A TAYLOR HACKFORD FILM
PROOF OF LIFE
CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BEL-AIR ENTERTAINMENT AN ANVIL FILMS PRODUCTION A TAYLOR HACKFORD FILM MEG RYAN RUSSELL CROWE "PROOF OF LIFE" DAVID MORSE PAMELA REED AND DAVID CARUSO MUSIC BY DANNY ELFMAN PRODUCTION DESIGNED BY BRUNO RUBEO EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVEN REUTHER TONY GILROY PRODUCED BY TAYLOR HACKFORD AND CHARLES MULVEHILL WRITTEN BY TONY GILROY DIRECTED BY TAYLOR HACKFORD
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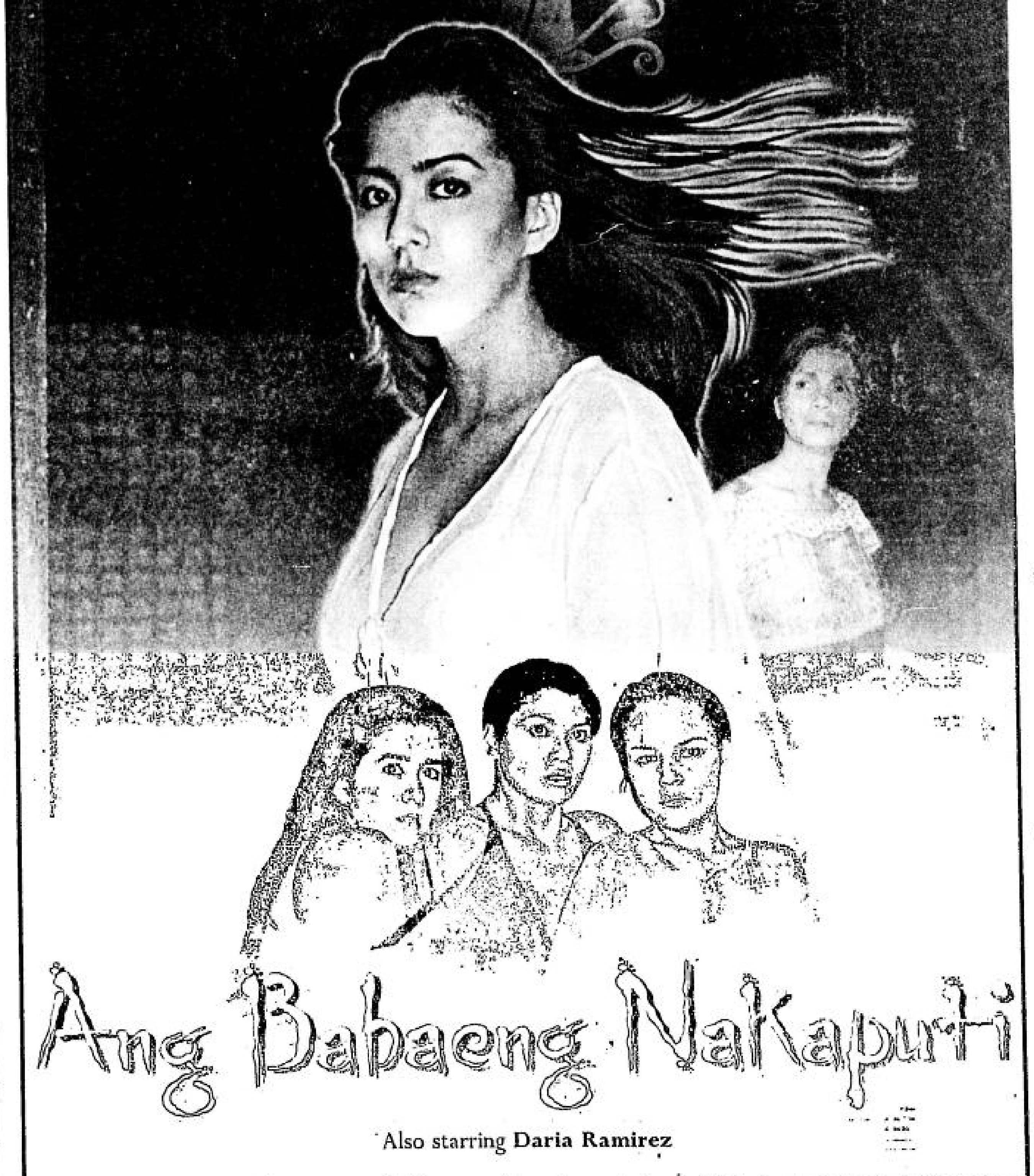
Telesine presents
Antoinette Taus Mylene Dizon Matet De Leon
and Ara Mina as



Also starring Daria Ramirez
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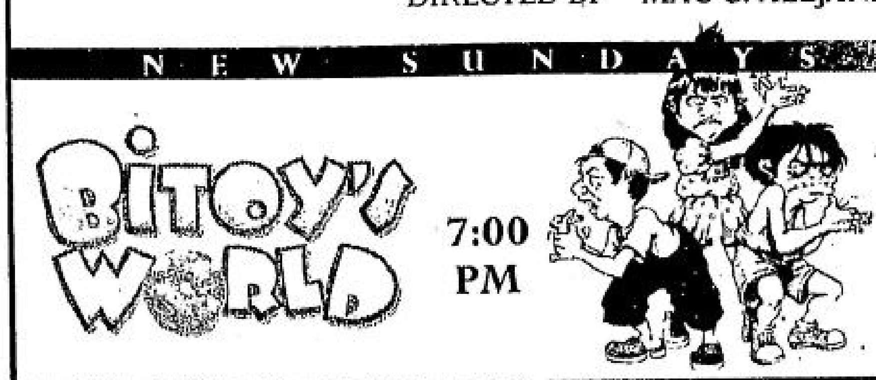


7:00 PM
Telesine 7:30 PM
BOX OFFICE 9:30 PM

Cogie in the raw

BY THE ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

SUDDENLY, it seems, he's a star. He earned two notices in his first two movies, Joey Reyes' "Yakapin Mo Ako" and Peque Gallaga's "Sa Piling ng mga Aswang." By his third movie, "Deathrow," he was getting raves.

Cogie Domingo, at 15 and 5-foot-10, has attained what other actors twice his age and less than his size take a lifetime to get, stardom.

The latest star in Philippine movies is also the newest model of Penshoppe, maker of casual fashion for the young. He almost did not make it. According to Penshoppe ad-promo head Angelica Suiza, who is also the president of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (PANA), part of the new Penshoppe print and TV ad was almost rejected because it shows what seems to be a naked Cogie. The young man actually wore a towel around his waist during the shoot but the towel is not seen in the ad, only Cogie's bare, sweaty torso.

The new star and image model, this time fully-clothed, sits down with INQUIRER Entertainment and talks about almost everything you've wanted to know about him but didn't know who to ask. He gives raw, fresh, funny, disarming answers.

INTERVIEW

What's your real name?

Redmond. When I was younger, my mom liked to call me "Pogi," but I couldn't pronounce the word. What I would say was Cogie, so *naging 'yun ang tawag nila sa 'kin.*

Now that you're grown up, *sa tingin mo pogi ka?*

Hindi. Cogie *ako.*

You're the youngest among five children?

Yes, but they're all half-brothers and half-sisters, two from my mom and two from my dad. I'm the only child of their marriage. I grew up with my brothers on my mom's side. Those on my dad's side are married. I'm also close to them, but I'm closer to those on my mom's side.

How is it growing up with half-brothers and sisters?

I didn't even know they're my half-brothers when I was growing up.

What does your dad do?

He's a human rights lawyer, Rodrigo Domingo.

Your mom?

She's into real estate.

Your dad is also often seen on TV.

Ako may bayad, siya wala.

Your dad is not mestizo. Where did you get your looks?

From my mom, but my dad doesn't want me to say that. My mom liked modeling when she was younger and she occasionally acted in the theater, but there's really no actor in the family.

What did you take after your dad?

'Yung pagka-kalog ko.

But your dad looks serious when he's on TV.

'Pag may camera lang. When you meet him, he's really funny.

Where do you go to school?

I'll be in third year high school in June. From San Beda in elementary, I moved to Brent. Brent starts classes in September, and I didn't enroll last year. This coming June, I'm planning to enroll in a regular school.

A lot of people said you were very good in "Deathrow."

It was a big break for me and the expectations of the audience were so high I had to do my best.

Saan mo nakuha 'yung pag-arte mo?

Walang paghuhugutan dahil wala pa akong experience. But when you're working with really good actors like *Tito* Eddie (Garcia) and *Tito* Boyet (de Leon, who played his father in the earlier "Yakapin Mo Ako"), you'd be inspired. *Nadadala ka.*

Did you attend acting workshops?

I did for "Yakapin Mo Ako," but for "Deathrow" *hindi na.*

What scene in "Deathrow" was the most difficult for you?

There were a lot of hard scenes which I was able to internalize, but in the rape scene, I didn't know what to do.

You had a lot of crying scenes there. How did you do them?

Wala nga akong sad experiences, happy life *ako.* I just think of anything sad *o 'yung nakakainis,* like the traffic, *para maiyak ako. O kung may gusto kang bagay at 'di mo makuha; gusto mong sumigaw o umiyak.* That works for me.

Do you drive?

Yes. A Nissan Exalta. I bought it with my earnings in show biz.

***Anong tingin mo sa* show biz?**

Magulo, because of the *tsismis.* They talk about your private life. *Hilig ko lang talaga kahit hindi ka puwedeng lumabas basta-basta o kaya uminom, dahil baka may makakita sa 'yo.*

Naging* subject *ka na ba ng tsismis?

Si Piolo (Pascual), type *daw niya 'ko.*

What was the worst thing written about you?

When Krista (Ranillo) was still my girlfriend, *nawawala daw kami sa* set *ng* taping for "Rio del Mar," then they would see us *nag-aayos ng damit namin* inside a van. *Kahit kailan, hindi pa ako nawala sa* set.

There was talk that you were always late in one regular show so you were pulled out.

I think that was "Rio del Mar." I had to go to school and I had classes until 2 p.m., so after that *pa lang ako puwedeng mag*-taping. If they needed me early on the set, I couldn't make it. I think my manager (Jojo Dingcong) told the producers to pull me out.

Are you aware that talent managers create talk even if it's not true to generate publicity for their talents?

I don't enjoy that. If they want to talk about me, *'yung totoo lang.* I don't want to deny things.

What do you do with your money?

Eighty percent of my earnings go to the bank. The 20 percent I use to buy what I want.

What's your biggest expense?

Car accessories.

If you were given a chance to work with another director after Joel Lamangan ("Deathrow"), Peque Gallaga ("Sa Piling ng mga Aswang") and Joey Reyes ("Yakapin Mo Ako"), who will you choose?

Direk Chito Roño. I haven't worked with him yet.

Among the female stars, whom would you like to work with?

I've worked with Lorna Tolentino ("Yakapin") and Maricel Soriano ("Aswang"). I don't want to choose because there are a lot of good actresses. Among the young ones, I'd like to work with Kristine Hermosa.

How long were you on with Krista (Ranillo)?

A year and three months.

When is your birthday?

August 15. Leo.

What do you think is your strongest trait as a private person?

Kuwela. My dad is also like that.

If you were not in show biz, what would you want to be?

I want to be in business. Billiards with a bar.

Not a lawyer?

Hindi ko talaga magustuhan. Ayoko talaga.

Who are your idols?

Aga (Muhlach). He was so down before, he was almost without a job, *pero naiahon niya ang sarili niya* and look where he is now. *Sa* music, I like the Eraserheads. I like all their songs.

What's your ideal girl?

Morena and *chinita.* Simple, not aggressive. That's what I liked about Krista.

How old is Krista?

18.

What went wrong?

Sa dad *ko, okay lang,* but with her dad (actor Mat Ranillo III), *'yun ang problema* because *siguro* I was younger. *Parang hindi* healthy *'yung* relationship *namin. Pareho kaming mainitan ang ulo. Kahit ayaw naming payagang umalis, pipilitin pa rin namin.*

Do you like older women?

Yes.

What are you doing now?

I'm doing a movie with Judy Ann. Teacher-student *ang* relationship *namin, hindi kami ang magka*-loveteam. It's under Regal Films. I'm a contract star of Regal.

How come you were allowed to do "Deathrow" for GMA Films?"

I have an option.

Do you know how much you're earning?

Yes. I get all my checks, then my management outfit just bills me for the commission.

You're the new image model of Penshoppe.

Yes, it's my first endorsement. My contract is for 15 months.

Do you shop for your own clothes?

Yes, but sometimes, my mom does the shopping for me. Whatever she buys, I wear.

What are your hobbies?

I play basketball. Point-guard *ako* before but I became taller.

How do you feel when you go out and people recognize you?

I'm flattered. I smile at them, *medyo pa*-cute, but I'm happy.

Where can your fans write you?

At the Garibaldi Office, Unit 424 Blanco Center, Salcedo Village, Makati. They can also access the Penshoppe website at www.penshoppe.com or e-mail me at cogiedomingo@pinoycentr1al.com.

What getup are you most comfortable in?

Polo, shirts or sandals. But now, Penshoppe is sponsoring my clothes. As part of my contract, I have to be seen wearing Penshoppe clothes in my public appearances. I can wear other brands, but I can't be photographed wearing them, especially if the logo is seen.

My contract also has a morality clause. I can't be seen smoking or drinking in public or even entering a motel. *Pero* hotel *daw puwede.* (Laughs).

What's your favorite subject in school?

Science.

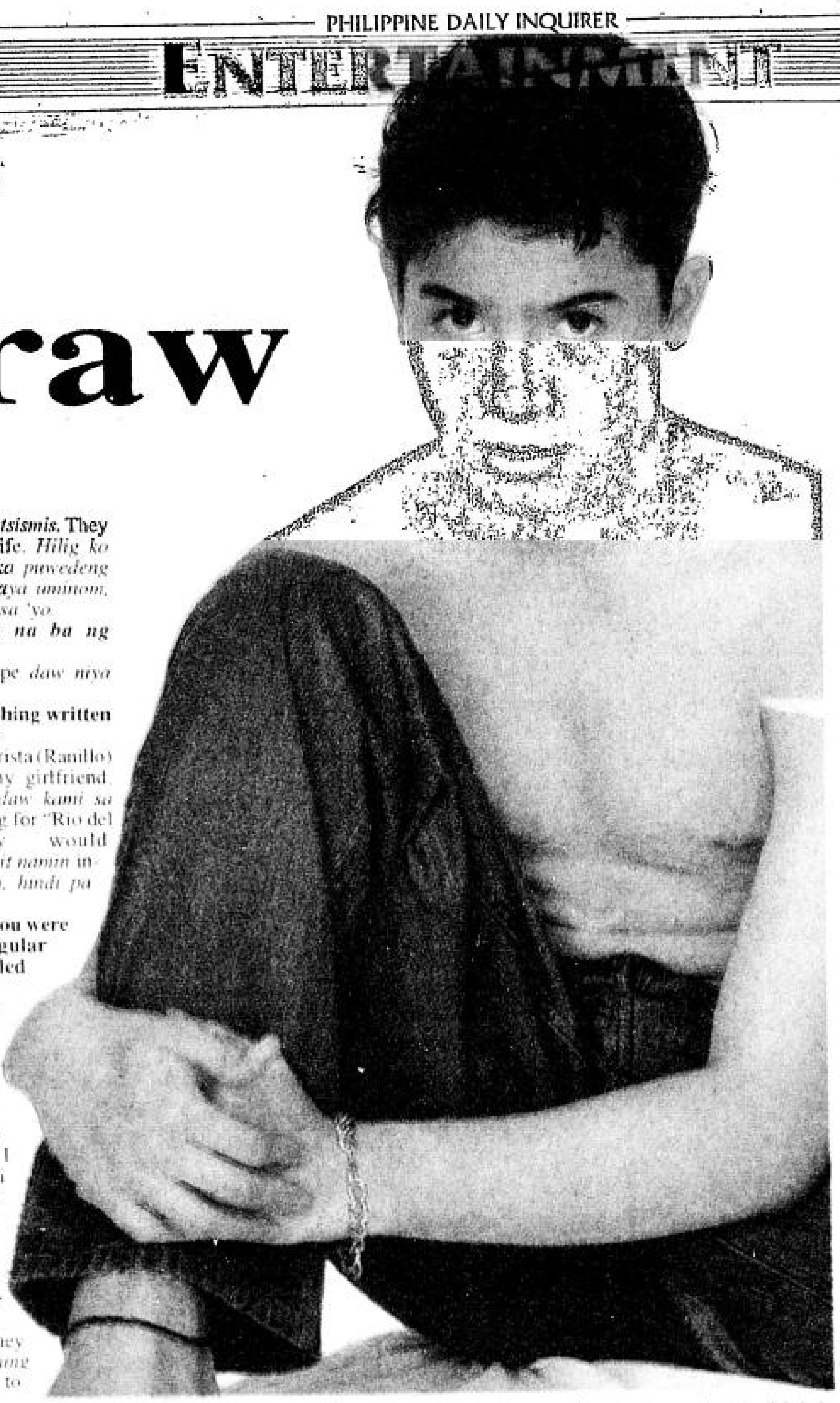
Do you get special treatment in school now that you are a star?

My school doesn't give special treatment. If I miss classes, I get to take make-up exams, like any other student.

What do you do that will make your dad or your mom angry?

Hindi nagagalit ang daddy *ko.* My mom hates it when I go out at night and I don't ask her permission, or when I stay overnight in a friend's

COGIE/ A26



WEARING almost nothing but Penshoppe's latest product, which is not seen but smelled, Cogie as the fashion label's newest endorser almost did not get approved.

VIVA CINEMA

Big Hits sa Alas Ocho

Ito Ang Pinoy!

The Original 24-hour Filipino movie channel
Nakaka-aliw, Nakaka-baliw!

FEBRUARY 11 - 17
Primetime Schedule

Sun Feb. 11 Andrew E.
Sunday's Bida sa Takilya:
HUMANAP KA NG PANGIT

Mon Feb. 12 Phillip Salvador
Umaatikabong Aksyon sa Lunes:
NANDITO AKO

Tue Feb. 13 Dennis Padilla
Tuesday's Tambay Time:
MANDURUGAS

Wed Feb. 14 Vilma Santos
Madamdaming Miyerkules:
PALIMOS NG PAG-IBIG

Thu Feb. 15 Ryan Eigenmann
Director's Masterpiece:
GANGLAND

Fri Feb. 16 Dante Varona
Premiere Express sa Biyernes:
ISANG LAHI, ISANG DUGO SA LUPANG PANGAKO

Sat Feb. 17 Angelu de Leon
KSP (Knockout Saturday Premiere):
WALA NA BANG PAG-IBIG?

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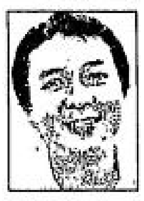
Mel Gibson plays it bright–and breezy

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

VIEWERS who are used to seeing **Mel Gibson** as an action hero or dramatic lead have a pleasant surprise in store for them when they view his latest starrer, "What Women Want."

This time around, Gibson drops his tough and intense stances and plays the blithe romantic-comedy lead, cockily delivering smart dialogue and even doing a brief take-off on **Fred Astaire** and **Gene Kelly**'s dancing styles. Yes, folks, Mel Gibson is the **Cary Grant** of the new millennium!

But **Nancy Myers'** film is interested in more than those surprising and appealing drolleries. It's a lighthearted romp, but it touches on some significant points related to male-female relations.

To clarify those points, Gibson plays a "champion" playboy and chauvinist who is determined to undermine the woman (**Helen Hunt**) who has usurped his "rightful" place as creative director of a hotshot advertising agency.

Despite his worst instincts, however, he takes a liking to his female boss, but he tries to control his feelings. That's why, when he "miraculously" acquires the ability to hear women's thoughts, he cold-bloodedly listens in on her thoughts, stealing her ad-campaign ideas and passing them off as his own.

After a while, Gibson makes Hunt look inutile, and the time comes when she gets fired. By this time, however, they have fallen in love with each other, and Gibson hates himself for having been so "brilliantly" devious with her. He tries to get her hired again, but the harm has been done and he feels like the cad and heel he really is.

Despite this downbeat turn of events, Gibson learns a lot about women, even as he continues to exploit them. Little by little, he realizes that his being a chauvinist is equal to his being a louse, and he tries to mend his ways.

Even better, he goes beyond just listening in on women's thoughts and tries to understand the opposite sex better—so that, in the end, he has stopped exploiting women and has learned to relate to them on their terms, rather than using them to suit his own purposes.

Director Myers is able to get these points across with a minimum of hortatory male-bashing, and that's all to the good. Some sequences are further enlivened by brisk camerawork and editing that serve to make the movie bubble and crackle more than the usual romantic-comedy production.

Hunt does well in the movie, but the film is a triumph for Gibson, who further demonstrates his versatility with his performance. Kudos also go to **Marisa Tomei**, who plays one of Gibson's flings (an actress moonlighting as a waitress) and to the young actress who is cast as Gibson's rebellious 15-year-old daughter.

Minus points? The ways that Gibson gets and then loses his "miraculous" powers feel too much like heavy-handed set-ups. But it's easy to overlook off-kilter moments like these because the rest of the movie is so engaging.

TV treats

TUESDAY, Feb. 13 at 3 p.m. on Star Movies, "Just One Night" with **Timothy Hutton** playing a professor who, enroute to his wedding, stops over in San Francisco and falls in love with another woman.

At 6:45 p.m. on Star Movies, "Beloved" with **Oprah Winfrey** cast as a runaway slave who is overwhelmed by memories of her dead daughter and the other family members she's abandoned. **Jonathan Demme** directs.

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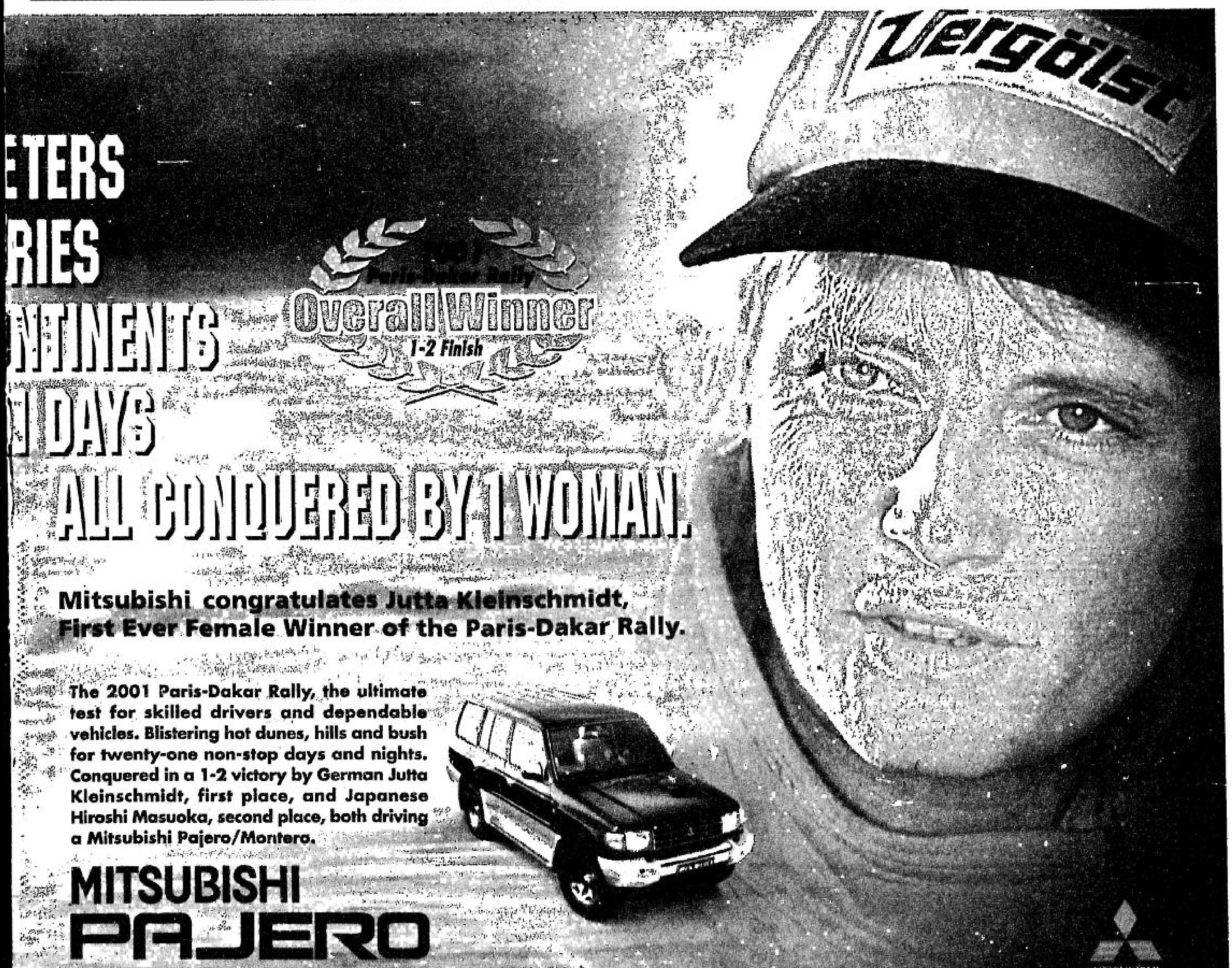

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3	DOLBY DIGITAL	PROOF OF LIFE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTANG BAYAN

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
3	DTS	PROOF OF LIFE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	PROOF OF LIFE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTANG BAYAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
12	DOLBY SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	PROOF OF LIFE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	BOUNCE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE CONTENDER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DUDE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
11	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR. 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	BOUNCE
4	DTS	PROOF OF LIFE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BOOBA
4	DOLBY SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
7	DTS	PROOF OF LIFE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DUDE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PROOF OF LIFE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	BOUNCE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
9	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
10	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CONTENDER

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TABI TABI PO

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	RED PLANET
7	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	ULTRA SURROUND	RED PLANET
5	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
8	ULTRA SURROUND	DUWAG LANG SUMUSUKO

SM PAMPANGA 7120015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DUDE
~~3~~	~~DOLBY SURROUND~~	BOOBA
~~4~~	~~SYNTHESIZED SURROUND~~	SYOTA NG BAYAN
~~5~~	~~SYNTHESIZED SURROUND~~	TABI TABI PO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT

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4	SPLENDOR (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	WHAT WOMEN WANT	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	WHAT WOMEN WANT	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	THE CONTENDER	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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1	BOUNCE	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	PROOF OF LIFE	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	VERTICAL LIMIT	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
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1	PROOF OF LIFE THX	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	VERTICAL LIMIT	in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	WHAT WOMEN WANT	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	BOUNCE	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	THE CONTENDER	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
2 (SDDS)	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3 (DTS)	PROOF OF LIFE
4 (GOLD DTS)	BOUNCE
5 (GOLD DOLBY)	THE CONTENDER
6 (GOLD SDDS)	CLOSED
7 (GOLD DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
8	VIRGIN WIFE
9	BOOBA
10	VITAL PARTS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	TABI TABI PO
2	VIRGIN WIFE
3 (DTS)	BOOBA
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3 (Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	PROOF OF LIFE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	IKA-7 GLORYA

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	VIRGIN WIFE
2	PROOF OF LIFE
3	IKA-7 GLORYA

starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	PROOF OF LIFE
2	VIRGIN WIFE
3	IKA-7 GLORYA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VERTICAL LIMIT
5	VITAL PARTS

Metropolis (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	VITAL PART
2	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	VIRGIN WIFE
4	RESERVE
5	PROOF OF LIFE
6	VERTICAL LIMIT
7	BOOBA
8	SYOTA NG BAYAN

Uniwide Metromall (Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

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2	REMEMBER THE TITANS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	VIRGIN WIFE
3	IKA-7 GLORYA

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	VIRGIN WIFE
A	IKA-7 GLORYA

JC Cinema (Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	BOOBA
3	VIRGIN WIFE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	VIRGIN WIFE
2	BOOBA
3	WHAT WOMEN WANT
4	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
5	BOUNCE
6	IKA-7 GLORYA
7 (DTS)	PROOF OF LIFE
8 (SDDS)	VITAL PARTS
9 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	PROOF OF LIFE
4	VITAL PART
5	
6	

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	VITAL PART
3	IKA-7 GLORYA
4 (SDDS)	VIRGIN WIFE
5	BOOBA
6 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
7 (DTS)	PROOF OF LIFE
8	TABI TABI PO
9	BOUNCE

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	PROOF OF LIFE
2	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	TABI TABI PO
4	BOUNCE
5 (SDDS)	VIRGIN WIFE
6	BOOBA
7 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
8	SYOTA NG BAYAN

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	BOOBA
2	BOUNCE
3 (DTS)	PROOF OF LIFE
4	SYOTA NG BAYAN
5 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
6 (DOLBY)	VIRGIN WIFE
7 (DOLBY)	IKA-7 GLORYA

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	IKA-7 GLORYA

Sampaquita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	IKA-7 GLORYA

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	IKA-7 GLORYA
Lords	TABI TABI PO
Jennet	IKA-7 GLORYA

MARKET! MARKET! Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	IKA-7 GLORYA
2	PROOF OF LIFE
3	VIRGIN WIFE
4	SYOTA NG BAYAN

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	IKA-7 GLORYA

Super Cinerama (Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	PROOF OF LIFE
2	VIRGIN WIFE
3	BOUNCE
4	SYOTA NG BAYAN
5	VERTICAL LIMIT

Divisoria Mall (Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	VIRGIN WIFE
2	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
4	TABI TABI PO
5	SYOTA NG BAYAN
6	PROOF OF LIFE

Baclaran LRT Cinema tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	VIRGIN WIFE
2	PROOF OF LIFE
3	IKA-7 GLORYA

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	VITAL PART
3 (DTS)	VIRGIN WIFE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 (DTS)	VITAL PART
3 (DOLBY)	PROOF OF LIFE
4	VIRGIN WIFE

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	VIRGIN WIFE
2	VITAL PARTS
3	SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 (DTS)	PROOF OF LIFE

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	VITAL PARTS
2	VIRGIN WIFE
3 (DTS)	PROOF OF LIFE
4	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
5	MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	VIRGIN WIFE
2	PROOF OF LIFE
3	VITAL PARTS

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	VIRGIN WIFE
2	PROOF OF LIFE
3	VITAL PARTS

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
3	TABI TABI PO

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	PROOF OF LIFE
2	VERTICAL LIMIT
3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	VIRGIN WIFE
2	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	BOOBA
4	VERTICAL LIMIT

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	VIRGIN WIFE
2 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
2	VIRGIN WIFE
3	MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	PROOF OF LIFE
3	LITTLE NICKY
4	TABI TABI PO

Berma tel 879.2168

1	
2	

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	IKA-7 GLORYA
2	BOOBA
3	VIRGIN WIFE
4	VERTICAL LIMIT

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	TABI TABI PO
3	DUDE
4 (DTS EX)	WHAT WOMEN WANT

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❸ WHAT WOMEN WANT
❹ VITAL PARTS
❺ IKA - 7 GLORYA
❻ BOUNCE
❼ PROOF OF LIFE

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❸ VITAL PARTS
❹ PROOF OF LIFE
❺ IKA - 7 GLORYA
❻ WAY OF THE GUN

BACOLOD (034)441-0463

❶ RED PLANET
❷ BALAHIBONG PUSA
❸ WONDER BOYS
❹ REMEMBER THE TITANS
❺ WHIPPED
❻ THE YARDS

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

(From page A23)

formers and models.

Aside from managing their show biz career, Mr. M also tends to their education, through the ABS-CBN Distance Learning Center (DLC). The center provides secondary education through a modular approach. It is under the auspices of TDMC and is duly recognized by the Department of Education Culture and Sports.

Mr. M's shows, both past and present, are "Kaluskos Musmos," "Two For the Road," "Chika Chika Chicks," "Big Big Show," "Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata," "Palibhasa Lalake," "Home Along Da Riles," "Richard Loves Lucy," "Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis" and "Asap."

Now almost three decades in show biz, Mr. M has undoubtedly contributed to the evolution of the entertainment industry through his unselfish work, dedication and genius.

MANAHAN

Cogie . . .

(From page A24)

house and I fail to call.

My manager says I'm generous to a fault because I'm the one who often spends for everything when I'm with my friends.

What was the worst punishment that you got?

I was grounded for two days. I can't remember why. But now, good boy *na ka*. I'd like to think *nag*-mature *na rin ako*.

How big a star would you like to be?

If I become a big star, that will be good. I just don't want to be overexposed. But I like the way my career is going now.

You still have a regular TV show?

"Clique" on GMA. I'm also a semi-regular on "SOP," where they ask me to sing.

What would you like to tell your fans?

I'd like to thank them for their support, especially those who go to "SOP" when I'm there on Sundays.

How big is your fan base now?

I'm not aware *kung* nationwide *na*, but I get a lot of mails.

What can you advise kids who want to be like you?

They can try it in show biz. Who knows, they might also be successful. Before, I only wanted to be in commercials, but they opened the way to a lot of other things *hanggang maging artista na 'ko.*

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BOOBA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PROOF OF LIFE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	VITAL PARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	WHAT WOMAN WANT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BOUNCE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PROOF OF LIFE
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	IKA-7 GLORYA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	VIRGIN WIFE
MIRAMAR	GUSTO KO LANG LUMIGAYA / LA FEMME EROTIQUE
ODEON	PROOF OF LIFE
ODEON-2	VIRGIN WIFE
ROBEN	VIRGIN WIFE
TANDEM-1	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
TANDEM-2	PALIGAYAHIN MO AKO
TIMES	BEDAZZLED / THE WATCHER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
QUEZON-1	VIRGIN WIFE
REMAR	VIRGIN WIFE
REMAR-2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	IKA-7 GLORYA
OCEAN CINEMA-A	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
OCEAN CINEMA-B	BUKID AY BASA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-2	BOUNCE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
CINEMA-2	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-3	BOOBA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-8	TABI TABI PO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WHAT WOMEN WANT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-12	THE CONTENDER
CINEMA-14	VITAL PARTS
CINEMA-15	BOUNCE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BOUNCE
CINEMA-2	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-3	BOUNCE
CINEMA-4	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-5	CONTENDER
CINEMA-6	WHAT WOMEN WANT

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8:40 PM - The Contender
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Tom Hanks / Helen Hunt
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ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

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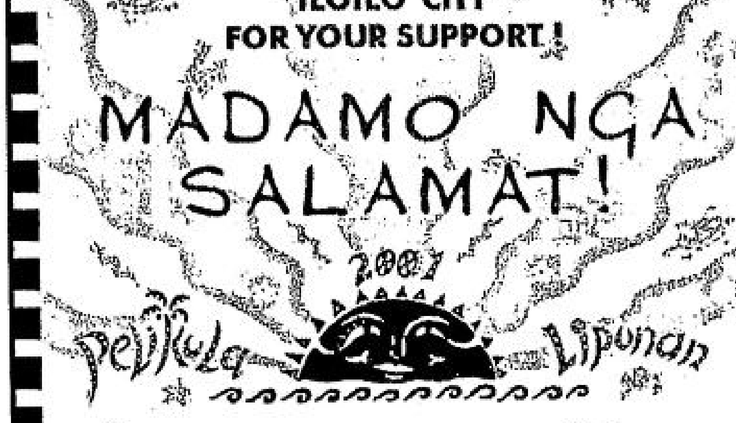
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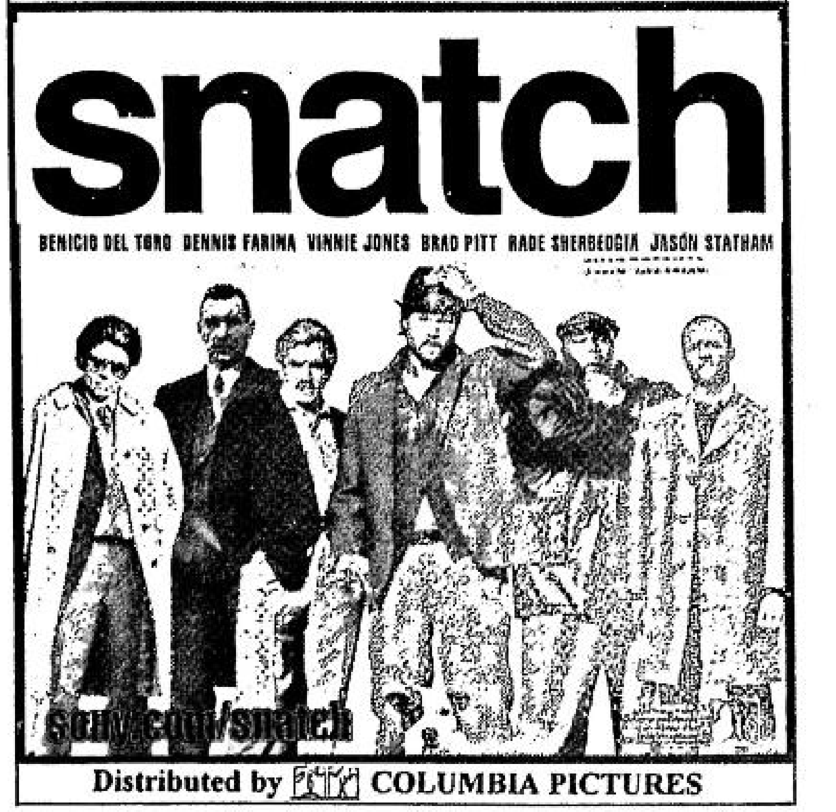
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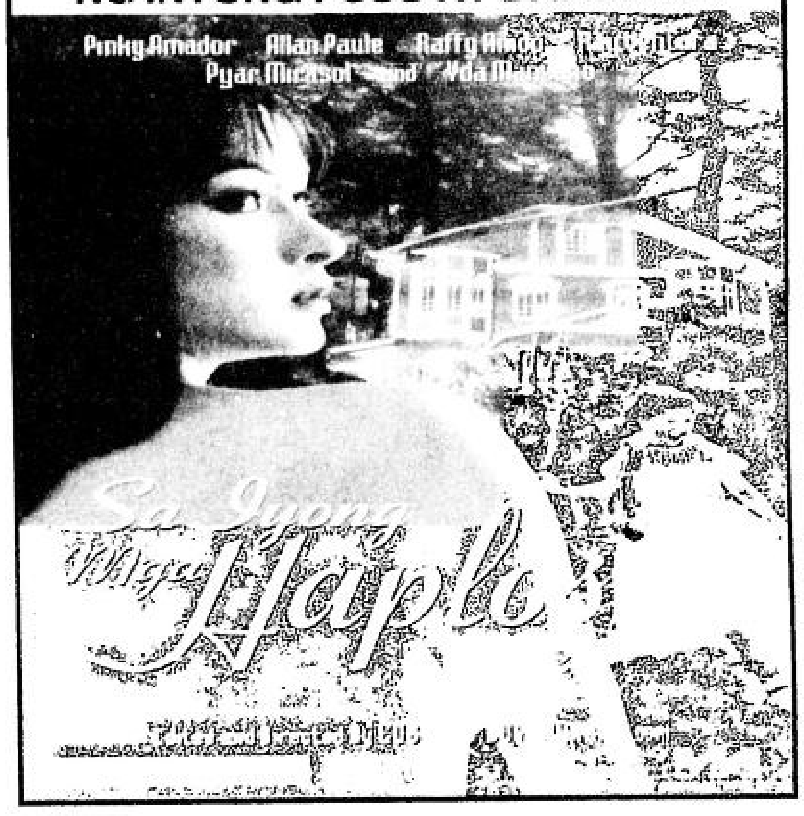
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GOLDEN GLOBE BEST ACTOR
At the edge of the world, his journey begins.
A ROBERT ZEMECKIS FILM
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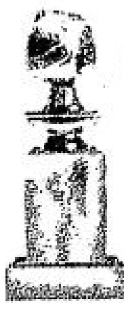

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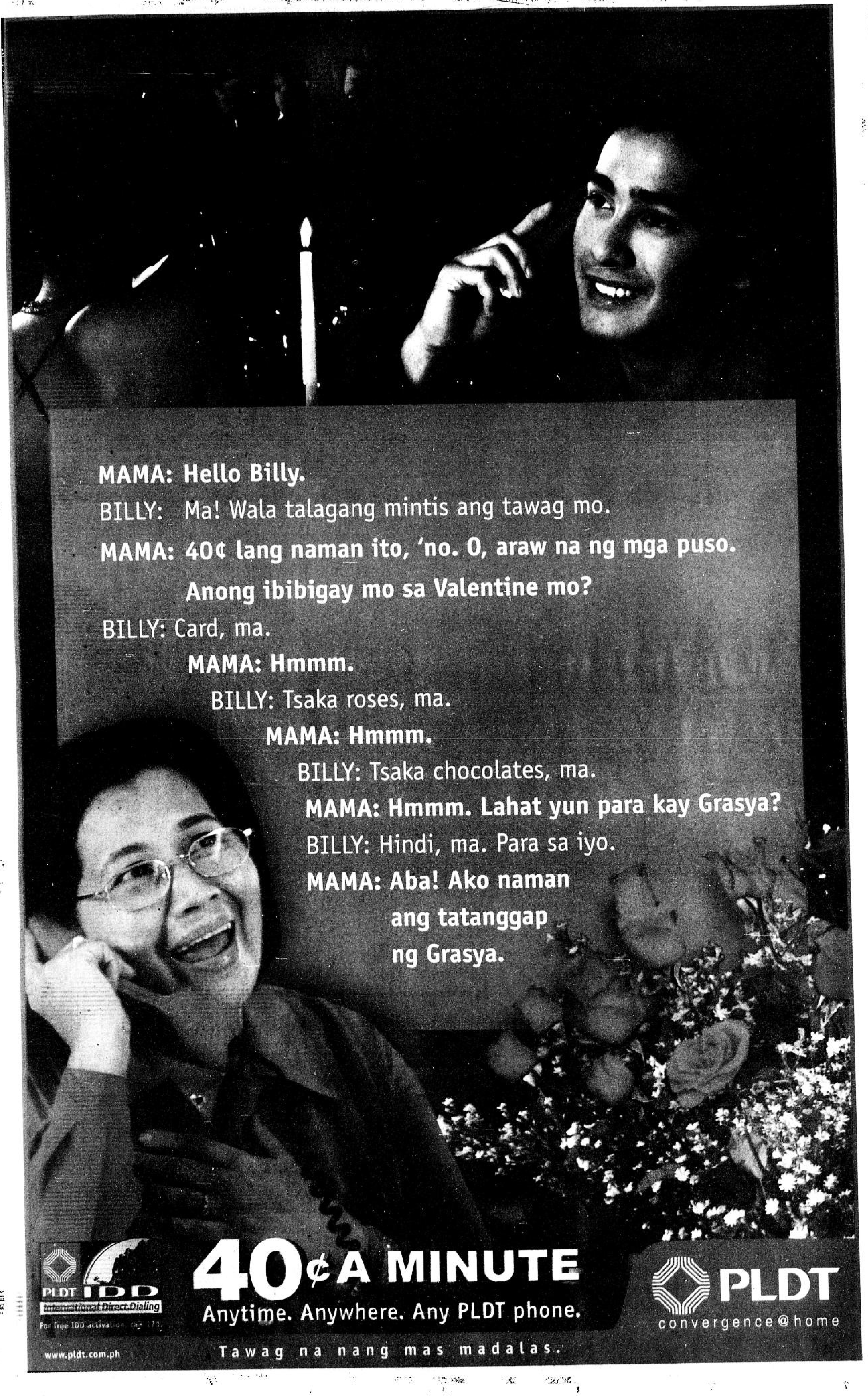

MAMA: Hello Billy.
BILLY: Ma! Wala talagang mintis ang tawag mo.
MAMA: 40¢ lang naman ito, 'no. O, araw na ng mga puso.
Anong ibibigay mo sa Valentine mo?
BILLY: Card, ma.
MAMA: Hmmm.
BILLY: Tsaka roses, ma.
MAMA: Hmmm.
BILLY: Tsaka chocolates, ma.
MAMA: Hmmm. Lahat yun para kay Grasya?
BILLY: Hindi, ma. Para sa iyo.
MAMA: Aba! Ako naman
ang tatanggap
ng Grasya.

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E-books barely a blip on publishing radar

NEW YORK—They're hefty, pricey, and you don't want to drop one during a bath, making electronic books a tough sell even after several heavyweight technology companies have jumped into the untested market.

"Reading an e-book is just like reading a book . . . but it's just less fun, more expensive and heavier," said Robert Hertzberg, an analyst with Jupiter Research. "That's not much of a marketing motto."

At this early stage, few readers have been weaned from the traditional ink-and-paper variety. E-book sales barely show up in the $96 billion US consumer electronics or publishing markets.

Consumers are turned off in part by the price, since the texts cost as much as regular books. The gadgets start at more than $100 retail and can weigh as much as a hardcover volume.

Other complaints include a shortage of books in the digital format and hard-to-read screens, which on one model measured about three inches by 4.75 inches, or about the size of a paperback. There is also the problem of incompatible software formats.

"It's kind of like the Tower of Babel out there. There are a lot of different formats," said Greg Winsky, executive vice president at Franklin Electronic Publishers Inc., maker of the eBookMan reading device.

Electronic books are basically gadgets aimed at replacing printed pages with digital versions. Instead of taking books off a shelf, bibliophiles download volume after volume into their electronic reader, and erase them when they want.

Downloading can be cumbersome, however. Digital books in Microsoft Corp.'s Reader format, for example, have to be shunted to a personal computer or laptop before they can be switched to a hand-held device.

Analysts say they expect that e-books are more likely to be used for textbooks or reference works, rather than for entertainment, because an e-book can search by key words and it's easy to update materials.

In a significant textbook deal, startup software company Rovia Inc. last week inked a deal with textbooks publisher Houghton Mifflin Co. to deliver material online.

E-book use seen jumping by 2005

Current e-book usage is tiny, considering the potential market. A survey by Jupiter Research put the number of electronic reading devices in use in the United States at only 100,000.

Jupiter forecast 1.9 million users of electronic books by 2005 as prices drop and quality improves. Electronic books "cost too much, and they don't look good enough at the moment," said Malcolm Maclachlan, an analyst with IDC, a research firm.

A report from Forrester Research estimated revenues from digitized book publishing at $7.8 billion in 2005, up from $838 million this year. The high-speed printing of books on demand make up about half the market.

Sales of books designed to be downloaded and read on special devices are expected to rise to $251 million from just $12 million this year, according to Forrester.

"The prices are way too high, so we think there will be a relatively slow customer adoption" of the devices, said Jupiter's Hertzberg.

Richard Doherty, director of research at technology assessment company Envisioneering Group in Seaford, New York, said copyright restrictions and accords that limit distribution of material would limit electronic books' wider use.

He added that a potentially thinner display screen from Japan's Sony Corp. could help lead to sleeker readers.

Sony unveiled an organic electroluminescent display screen on Wednesday that is just a little thicker than a credit card and is aimed at replacing the ubiquitous liquid crystal display screen. Sony hopes to start mass-producing them by 2003.

"These devices are still being adopted faster than CD players and VCRs (video cassette recorders) were when they came out," Doherty said.

Reuters

Credit card offers abound in slowing US economy

NEW YORK—Credit card companies have changed Tom Hannick's domestic habits. "I refuse to answer the telephone," the 50-year-old resident of Smithtown, Long Island, said.

About a year ago, credit card solicitations so overwhelmed the Hannick household that he got caller identification for his telephone and told friends and family to use a secret code when calling.

"It is now getting to the point that I can't even stay home and answer my own phone," he said.

Hannick, who works in the software industry and has an "excellent credit rating," already has eight active cards. But the industry is still pitching him.

Credit card companies are scrambling for a hold on consumers' pocketbooks as the slowing economy begins to cast a shadow over their operations.

Another worry on the horizon: an uptick in bad consumer loans at a time the average credit card balance jumped 23 percent to about $5,500 in mid-2000, according to the latest data.

Companies are blitzing consumers with mail solicitations, only to be met by record-low response rates. Telephone pitches aside, a majority of US households now receives about one offer a week in the mail.

About 71 percent, or 69 million, of US households receive credit card solicitations by mail, according to Andrew Davidson, vice president at market research firm BAIGlobal.

The total number of queries was 888 million in the third quarter, a 25-percent jump from 1999, Davidson said. Response rates dropped to 0.6 percent, down from 0.9 percent over the same period.

Industry feels heat

The economy shuddered in the fourth quarter after a series of Federal Reserve interest rate increases. Consumers are now backing off credit card spending, and the downturn in the economy could produce an uptick in loan defaults, hitting credit companies where it hurts the most.

"Clearly, over the last couple of months, there was higher evidence that the economy slowed," said Robert Napoli at ABN Amro.

Powerhouse American Express Co. on Monday gave a cautious outlook for 2001, saying it expects 2001 earnings growth to be at the low end of its previous target range because of weak financial markets and a slowing economy.

"If you believe in a hard landing, and believe in recession, then credit card stocks (are) not where you want to be," said David Sochol of Legg Mason. But, well-managed companies will weather the storm, he predicted.

Those include American Express, Providian Financial Corp. and Capital One Financial Corp. added Reilly Tierney, an analyst at Fox-Pitt, Kelton.

San Francisco-based Providian, the No. 6 credit card company in the United States specializing in consumers with troubled credit histories, saw its earnings hurt by the uptick in bad loans but has the revenues to absorb charge-offs, said Tierney.

Capital One, in Falls Church, Michigan, last week posted a 31-percent rise in fourth-quarter profits, helped by the addition of new customers who spent more on their cards. Capital One seeks out potential customers by using sophisticated marketing tactics that have enabled it to target certain people with tailored cards.

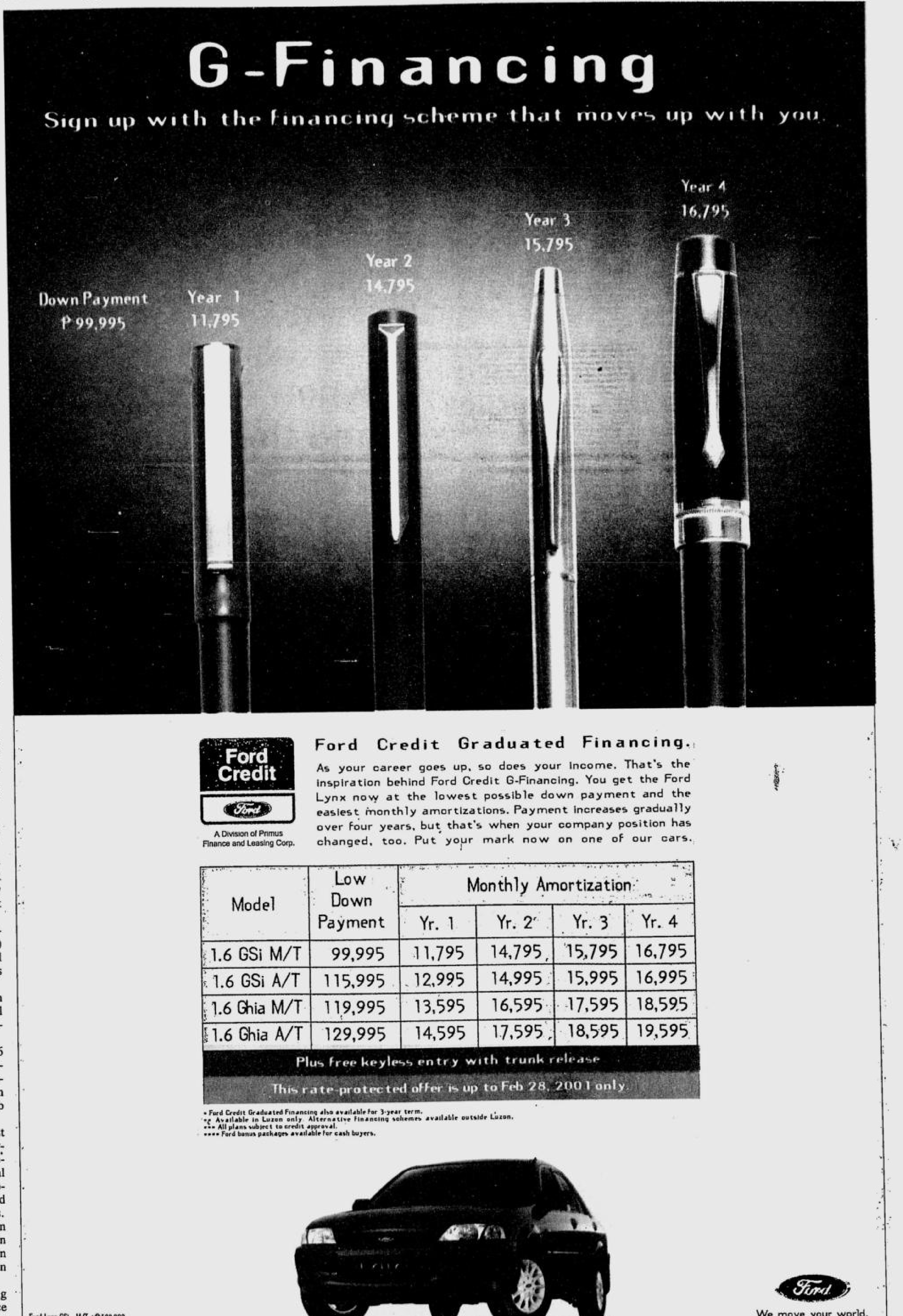
Credit card issuers Metris Cos. Inc., in Minnetonka, Minnesota, and MBNA Corp., in Wilmington, Del., both reported earnings in line with estimates, but registered a jump in delinquent loans.

These companies will likely keep banging on doors of folks with good credit to balance out rising bad loans and falling spending levels.

But it is unclear that the hard sell tactics will work.

Or, as Hannick puts it: "If I want a new credit card, I'll go out and get it."

Reuters



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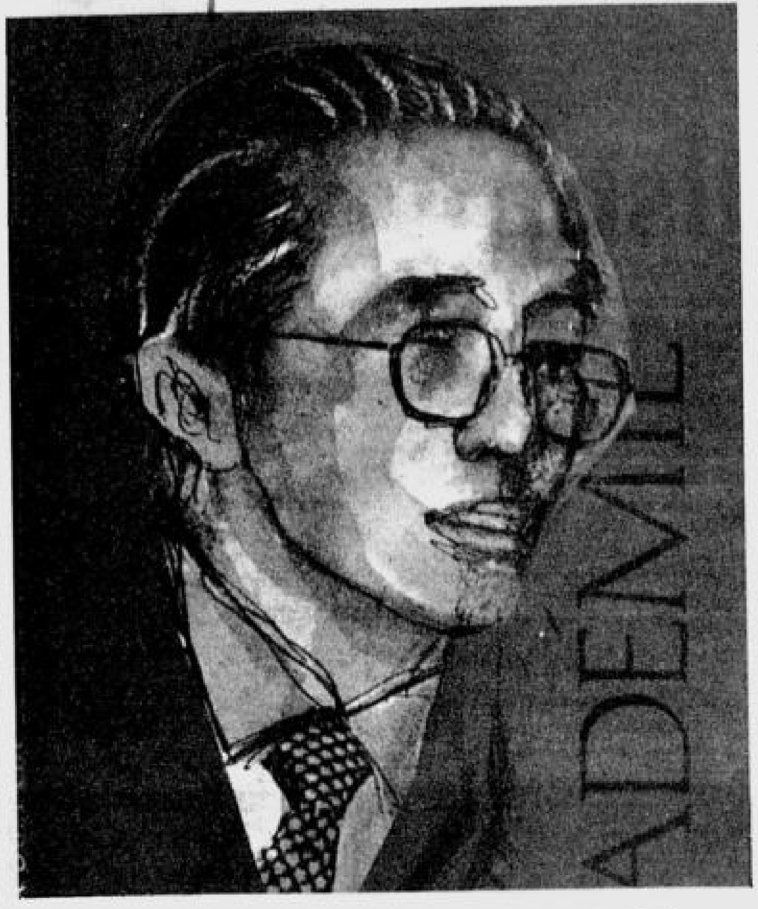
IN YOUR FACE BY L. P. LEVISTE



OSCAR M. Lopez, the second son of Lopez group founder Eugenio Lopez Sr., was recently named Management Man of the Year by the influential Management Association of the Philippines. Lopez was cited for demonstrating through his personal life and leadership that service to the public can be efficient and profitable at the same time.

Unfaithful Partner?
Company Fraud?
Pilferages/Thieveries?

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The best way to win is to make your foe's strength redundant

"Corporate Aikido"
By Robert Pino
McGraw Hill, 1999

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

EXECUTIVE READ

HUMANKIND throughout the centuries, has been pre-occupied with the thought of how best to win or—at the very least—survive. Even before Charles Darwin theorized on the "survival of the fittest," men and women from ancient to modern history have had to fight to survive.

The obsession to win pumps up our adrenaline, Henry "Red" Sanders puts it best (in words sometimes attributed to Vince Lombard): "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing."

Viewed on a grand scale, men go to war to secure the survival or supremacy of their village or country, and they come home greeted by the jubilant cheers of a hero-worshipping people.

Such a culture of war and war drums, of soldiers and generals has also influenced the world of business. How many times have you attended a sales conference where event managers produce a show where the firm's commandos fire upon logos or products of competitors and blow these up to smithereens?

What about a product launch where battle cries of "kill," "annihilate," and "pulverize" dominate the entire auditorium—out to banish the villain competitor into oblivion? The more bloodthirsty the salesmen, the better. The sharper the killer instinct, the more desirable.

The problem with this approach, according to Robert Pino, author of "Corporate Aikido," is that it saps the energy of antagonists—or competitors. At best, either one scores a partial win, while the other licks his wounds and plans for the next bloodletting.

The problem is people mistake fighting for winning. Pino advises companies to use the aikido-based strategy to "realize their strategic intention and to deepen further the core ideology of the company."

The author uses aikido, a form of martial art known to avoid a "force versus force" approach, as an extended metaphor in advancing his theory of "winning without fighting." He points out: "Aikido is focused on absolute victory and on the continuous improvement of oneself."

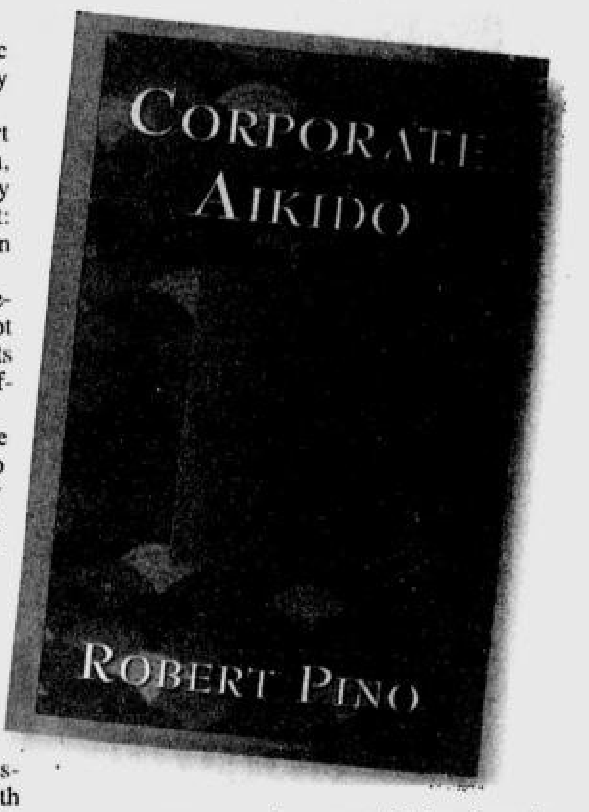
Obviously trained in the martial art, Pino debunks the belief that the "defensive art would not be of much help in a real fight." He ascribes doubts about its effectiveness on the "complexity and difficulty of the defensive techniques."

Throughout this thin book (161 pages), the author describes in detail aikido as it applies to winning strategy. "Those who look for victory destroying the opponent are usually disappointed. Making the strength of your opponent redundant and controlling him is more effective," he asserts.

He cites the cases of Dell Computer and Starbucks. Dell had no chance to lock horns with IBM, Apple, DEC or Compaq in building up an authorized dealer network, and so it used direct mail successfully. Starbucks avoided head-on competition with big restaurants and decided to introduce a new "coffee culture," giving customers "a sense of wonder and romance in the midst of their harried lives." Read about how Nike uses aikido strategy against Adidas and Puma.

Pino mentions aikido when other marketing gurus call the strategy "finding a niche" or "surpetition," that is, above the competition. In the same vein, military strategists talk about winning a battle without firing a single shot.

The book's discussion on winning is not confined to marketing or war; it is training and preparing the body, soul and spirit of the corporation for victory. The authors cite cases of collaboration, not competition, that was the key to the phenomenal success of a number of companies.



If that's the case, is competition a thing of the past? "Competition forms an important part of the external environment," concedes the author. "But it is never the most important driving force behind the company's activities."

To the author, the most important thing is competing with oneself, muck like the defensive art of aikido. He brings you, the reader, through three parts of the book—the "a" (coordination and harmony), the "ki" (mental energy or spirit), and the "do" (the method or way), with real life applications in the marketplace.

The good thing about real martial arts training, like in aikido, is the insistence of the Senseis—aikido master—for students to look inward and achieve a balance of body and spirit, and seek victory where no one loses. We have been accustomed to "zero-sum" games where one wins and the other loses. At the onset of the new millennium, it is time to march to "a different drum," where cooperation, not competition, is life's prevailing principle. *Feedback: dantemv@i-next.net.*

APRCP
ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE for CLEANER PRODUCTION

ASIA PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE FOR CLEANER PRODUCTION
Where: EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
When: 28 February - 02 March, 2001

The Third Roundtable is a gathering of industries, business people, policy makers, consultants, researchers, educators, and regulators.
We will share technical knowledge and innovative ideas about cleaner production, regulation, organizational change, and environmentally efficient technologies.

The Third Roundtable is an intense 3-day program consisting of keynote addresses, supported by themed parallel sessions and workshop fora for active participants, plus plant visits. International distinguished practitioners of Cleaner Production will lead discussions and promote debate among the participants.

TENTATIVE PARALLEL SESSIONS SCHEDULE

	28 FEBRUARY P.M. - WORKSHOPS
W-01A	UNEP-RIET Project Acorn - Encouraging CP & Business Benefits w/in the SME Community Using a Staged Approach to ISO 14001 w/in the context of UK Supply Chains (Part 1)
W-02A	Project Casework Approach Key Principles & Main Features
W-03	Global Reporting Initiative
W-04A	Eco-Industrial Development (Part 1)
	PANEL DISCUSSIONS
P-01	Policies, Regulations and Other Instruments (Part 1)
P-02	ASEAN-Australian CP Demonstration Project (Part 1)
P-03	Life Cycle Assessment
P-04	Public Policies and Action Planning for Cleaner Production
	15:15 – 17:00 WORKSHOPS
W-01B	UNEP-RIET Project (Part 2)
W-02B	Project Casework Approach Training Material Development & Delivery Implementing Green Productivity Program in Textile SME
W-04B	Eco-Industrial Development (Part 2)
W-05	National and Global Dissemination of Cleaner Production
	PANEL DISCUSSIONS
P-05	ASEAN-Australian CP Demonstration Project (Part 2)
P-06	Clean Technology and the Efficiency Scenario (Part 1)
P-07	Cleaner Production and Sustainable Development
P-08	CP Proj Implementers who Designed & Managed Large-Scale CP Projects
	01 MARCH A.M. - WORKSHOPS
W-01C	UNEP-RIET Project Acorn - Encouraging CP & Business Benefits w/in the SME Community Using a Staged Approach to ISO 14001 w/in the context of UK Supply Chains (Part 3)
W-06A	ADB-RETA 5840 CP Workshop (Part 1)
W-07	UNEP Financial Seminar
W-08	Cleaner Production Assessment
	PANEL DISCUSSIONS
P-09	Policies, Regulations and Other Instruments (Part 2)
P-10	Clean Technology and the Efficiency Scenario (Part 2)
P-11	Education and Training
	10:30 – 12:30 WORKSHOPS
W-01D	UNEP-RIET. Project Acorn (Part 4)
W-06B	ADB-RETA 5840 CP Workshop (Part 2)
W-09	ASEM Focal Point Cleaner Production
W-10	Resource Efficiency through Environmental Performance Indicator Systems
	PANEL DISCUSSIONS
P-12	Investment and Finance
P-13	Clean Technology and the Efficiency Scenario (Part 3)
P-14	Assessment of Programmatic Approaches Used to Promote CP (Part 1)
	01 MARCH P.M. - WORKSHOPS
W-01E	UNEP-RIET Project Acorn - Encouraging CP & Business Benefits w/in the SME Community Using a Staged Approach to ISO 14001 w/in the context of UK Supply Chains (Part 5)
W-06C	ADB-RETA 5840 CP Workshop (Part 3)
	PANEL DISCUSSIONS
P-15	Assessment of Programmatic Approaches Used to Promote CP (Part 2)
	WORKSHOP
	15:30 - 15:30 WORKSHOPS
W-01F	UNEP-RIET· Project Acorn (Part 6)
W-06D	ADB-RETA 5840 CP Workshop (Part 4)
	02 MARCH WORKSHOPS
W-01G	UNEP-RIET: Project Acorn (Part 7)
W-01H	UNEP-RIET: Project Acorn (Part 8)
W-06E	ADB-RETA 5840 CP Workshop (Part 5)
W-06F	ADB-RETA 5840 CP Workshop (Part 6)

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COST CONTROL IN A HOTEL

Know one cabbage from another and the difference in its costs

WHAT makes the difference between a business smiling all the way to the bank and one just scraping by? Timely, effective and flexible cost control is the key, not just to business profitability, but also survival. Ask the affable Carmen Cruz, cost control doyenne of the posh The Peninsula Manila.

While most women in the hotel business would rather cut a glamorous figure working at the front desk than be left with the dirty job of handling a hotel's back office operations, Cruz willingly roughs it out with figures, numbers and computers as head of the hotel's cost control department. For those unfamiliar with the world of cost controlling and its accounts, reports and books—think along the lines of budgeting P3,000 a week for groceries for a family of four, leaving just enough cash on hand for emergencies. Multiply that by 3,000 to get P9 million and try budgeting that for more than 1,000 people and you've basically got a gist of what cost-controlling is all about.

"Cost controlling is actually a very specialized job," explains Cruz. "You have to be multi-faceted and you have to know what a hotel's operations are. You have to know which areas to cut down expenses on and you have to know which suppliers offer the best goods. You also have to be a stickler for details. For example, you should be able to tell one cabbage from another, and the difference in cost."

A Hotel and Restaurant Administration graduate from the University of the Philippines, Cruz started her training at Baguio's Pines Hotel, then moved on to work at the Taal Vista Lodge in Tagaytay, where she had her first peek into the world of cost-controlling for hotels. From the cool environments of Tagaytay and Baguio, Cruz soon found herself back in the heat and heart of Manila, working for two other hotels before landing a position at the cost control department of The Peninsula Manila in 1982. Her expertise in, and dedication to, the business has seen her elected and reelected five times (from 1988 to 1992) as president of the Hotel and Restaurant Cost Controllers Association of the Philippines.

Today, 18 years later, Cruz hasn't gotten over her fascination with working in a hotel. "I find the hotel business to be really fun," says Cruz. "I'd probably be restless with an ordinary 9-to-5 job. The hotel is a world of its own—a lot of things can and do happen here. If I get over-stressed at my office, I can unwind simply by checking on the Newsstand, or dropping by the lobby or even stopping by for a peek into the kitchen area."

CARMEN Cruz is the doyenne controlling The Pen's purse strings.

A typical day for Cruz starts at 9 a.m., when she checks a deluge of inter-department e-mail ("which usually takes most of my morning!") and in-trays. Afternoons are spent doing her usual rounds in the hotel's storerooms as well as entertaining suppliers. She is usually on her way home to Laguna by 7 p.m.

"But there was a time when we would stay up in the office doing inventory and cost reports up to 2 in the morning, seven days a week for two weeks straight at a time," sighs Cruz with unmistakable relief. "That was before The Peninsula Manila had MICROS-Fidelio's various software systems installed. Now, I can have our physical inventory reports done in a snap by 6 p.m. The computerization of the hotel and the Fidelio system is such a huge blessing. At the click of a button, I can compute the cost of a sit-down dinner for 50 people to 500, or I can also find out how many cases of diet soft drinks the hotel needs for the next month. If the chef needs to see his orders for the month, I can easily download it for him on the spot. Management decisions are also made faster and quicker based on the extracted data from our system."

MICROS-Fidelio is the hospitality industry's partner in technology. Currently the world's front-runner in fully computerizing hotel operations, MICROS-Fidelio combines cutting edge technology with the world's most comprehensive information management systems for the hospitality industry. To date, MICROS-Fidelio has cornered more than 60 hotels in the Philippines alone, mirroring its success in over 107 countries worldwide.

According to Mary Ann Entienza, operations manager of MICROS-Fidelio, The Peninsula Manila's IT solutions are currently anchored on MICROS-Fidelio's front office system which does property management functions for hotel reservations, front desk, cashier, system setup and reports as well as housekeeping functions; Fidelio Food and Beverage which manages all inventories for the entire hotel operations (from F&B, furniture, fittings and engineering) and integrates purchasing and menu-mix calculations; and back office systems which does accounting functions.

With the aid of the new system, The Peninsula Manila started adopting the "paperless" concept which called for less hard copies and printouts of reports, data and information. Instead of printing them out, the transactions are stored in a central computer network under the Fidelio system.

"The installation of Fidelio's F&B management system, for instance, has enabled our F&B staff to complete their report packages in just 10 to 12 days, whereas before, it took them needy three weeks to finish," informs Cruz. "It also hastened the review process, giving more time for staff to do other things than await the signature of higher authorities, and eliminated the need for some employees to take 'unforeseen' leaves of absences," she adds with a smile.

Partly responsible for keeping The Peninsula Manila's head above water the past month despite the country's economic crisis, Cruz is quick to point out that her job is one not for the weak of heart. "You have to be strong, disciplined and fair," she explains. "I guess I was trained toward those traits at an early age since my father used to be in the military and was a strict disciplinarian. In cost-controlling, you have both power and a huge responsibility."

Mother to three growing boys, Cruz also applies the same cost-efficiency techniques at home. Sans household help, her sons Polanski, Christopher and James have learned how to wash their own clothes, make their own beds and even cook microwave dinners for themselves. Weekends are devoted to her kids and her husband Armando, strolling in malls or watching the latest action movie.

"My boys are my *barkada*," explains Cruz. "My family's my joy. I always make it a point to have time for them everyday. That's another plus of computerization and the MICROS-Fidelio system—since everything's faster and more efficient, I get to spend more time with my family. Of course, work is important but you have to live your own life, you have to have your own life. That's why I push my staff out the door at close of business hours—unless," Carmen grins and adds, "unless of course when they have deadlines."

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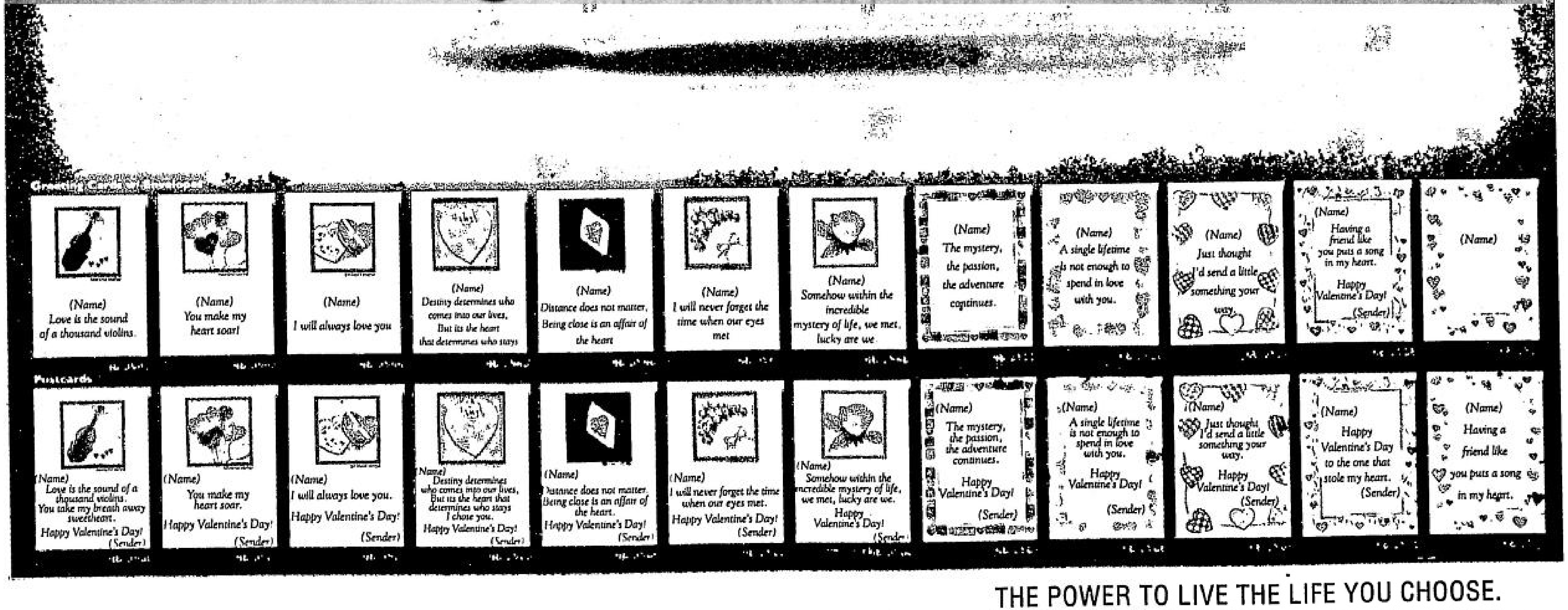

Greeting Cards

(Name)
Love is the sound
of a thousand violins.

(Name)
You make my
heart soar!

(Name)
I will always love you

(Name)
Destiny determines who
comes into our lives,
But its the heart
that determines who stays

(Name)
Distance does not matter,
Being close is an affair of
the heart

(Name)
I will never forget the
time when our eyes
met

(Name)
Somehow within the
incredible
mystery of life, we met,
lucky are we

(Name)
The mystery,
the passion,
the adventure
continues.

(Name)
A single lifetime
is not enough to
spend in love
with you.

(Name)
Just thought
I'd send a little
something your
way.

(Name)
Having a
friend like
you puts a song
in my heart.
Happy
Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)

Postcards

(Name)
Love is the sound of a
thousand violins.
You take my breath away
sweetheart.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
You make my
heart soar.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
I will always love you.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
Destiny determines
who comes into our lives,
But its the heart that
determines who stays
I chose you.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
Distance does not matter.
Being close is an affair of
the heart.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
I will never forget the time
when our eyes met.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
Somehow within the
incredible mystery of life,
we met, lucky are we.
Happy
Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
The mystery,
the passion,
the adventure
continues.
Happy
Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
A single lifetime
is not enough to
spend in love
with you.
Happy
Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
Just thought
I'd send a little
something your
way.
Happy
Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
Happy
Valentine's Day
to the one that
stole my heart.
(Sender)

(Name)
Having a
friend like
you puts a song
in my heart.

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   Example: CARD48-3963#ANA SANTOS#5 ROSEVILLE ST., Q.C.#MARLONYU#I LOVEYOU.
   Note: The whole message should be limited to 160 characters.
2. Send to 230 and wait for confirmation.

BILLING CHARGES:
1. Greeting cards w/ envelopes are available at ₱70.00
2. Postcards are available at ₱55.00
3. All purchases will reflect in your next monthly celfone bill.
   For more info, call 888-1111 or *888.
   To view all available cards, log on to www.smart.com.ph.

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People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

Globe, Islacom IDD calls now only US40 cents per minute

GLOBE Telecom bared that it has, since Feb. 1, 2001, lowered the IDD rates of its Globelines telephone service down to only US40¢ per minute. Globelines' new US40¢ per minute rate can now be enjoyed by Globelines subscribers whenever they call any country in the world at any time of the day.

Together with the lowering of IDD rates of Globelines, Islacom has also lowered to US40¢ per minute its IDD rates for its Islaphone telephone service. This joint offering of lowered IDD rates between the telephone services of Globe and Islacom is the latest development in connection with the ongoing integration of the two companies.

The lowering of IDD rates for Globelines and Islacom subscribers marks another bold move of Globe Telecom to make telecommunications services more affordable to subscribers.

It can be recalled that Globe Telecom first started the trend in consistently offering the lowest IDD rates among telecoms companies in the country. It led the industry with lowered IDD rates when it first offered a flat IDD rate of US$1 per minute, and then it lowered its rates further to US40¢ per minute for subscribers of its Globe Handyphone cellular phone service. Many telecoms companies followed with their own rate adjustments to match the IDD rates of Globe afterwards.

The new low international long distance rates of Globelines and Islaphone easily translate to significant savings to subscribers of the two networks whenever they call abroad. This also means that subscribers can call their friends, loved ones and business contacts abroad longer and more often whenever they use their Globelines phone or Islaphone to call abroad.

Globelines' and Islaphone's US40¢ per minute rate is a flat rate with no conditions attached that can be enjoyed by the two network's subscribers nationwide. Applicable at all times of the day, the low IDD rate of the two companies is also not bound by peak or off-peak hours.

The new US40¢ per minute rates of Globelines and Islaphone is available to business and residential subscribers in the telephone service areas of Globe Telecom and Islacom. Globelines service is available in Makati, Mandaluyong, Pasig, San Juan and Marikina in the National Capital Region (NCR); in Batangas, Cavite, Mindoro Oriental, Mindoro Occidental and Palawan in Region IV-B; and in Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat in Region XII.

PHILAM OPENS BINONDO BUSINESS CENTER

The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company or Philamlife, the largest and most diversified life insurance company in the Philippines, recently inaugurated its new business center at the heart of Binondo, Manila on Quentin Paredes Street. The opening of the business center aims to bring the company's products and services right at the doorstep of its Chinese clientele. Cutting the ribbon to formally open the business center are (from left) Jesus Hofilena, executive vice president and chief marketing officer of Philamlife; Jose Cuisia, president and CEO of Philamlife and chair of The Philam Group of Companies; Eliseo David, CEO of Philam Plans and Pepot Sto. Domingo, executive vice president and chief agency officer of Philamlife. Looking on are the top agents and top agency owners of Philamlife.

TRINITY GOES TO THE EXTREME

Trinity High School students pose with Iloilo Megavoltz assistant playing coach and Rexona Extra Dry Sport Stick endorser Vince Hizon (seated, center) during the championship rounds of the first ever Rex Games held at the La Salle Greenhills gym. The Rex Games is Rexona Stick's extreme games competition involving students from different high schools all over Metro Manila.

ACSAT STRIKES ANOTHER GOLD

Representatives and contestants of the Asian College of Science and Technology (Acsat) raise their hands in victory as the school garnered the gold medal in the recently concluded 9th Metro Manila Youth Skills Olympics. Overjoyed with victory are (from left) Generose Marie T. Lee, coach; Cecille Claron, coach; Arnie Koonce Montenegro, diploma of excellence; Norberto Ricafranca, IT category silver medalist; Engr. Emmanuel Sia, Acsat SVP; Eric Mendoza (partially hidden), coach; Ryan Alano, electronics category gold medalist; Jonathan Dupitas, coach; Jovencio Manois, coach; and Cecilio Farinas, Acsat electronics department head.

AGREEMENT

Filipino chess grandmasters (from left) Joey Antonio, Eugene Torre and Bong Villamayor sign an agreement with Gryk Ortaleza (standing) for the latter to act as their talent agent in any and all commercial undertakings that may involve the grandmasters' participation or endorsement. The move is meant to provide professional aid to Antonio, Torre and Villamayor in selecting the best products and services to endorse among the many offered by advertisers and other business groups.

Women groups spearhead 100-day agenda confab

VARIOUS women's groups have banded together to initiate a civil society conference tackling the 100-day agenda of the Macapagal administration. Dubbed "Diwa ng Edsa: Pagkakaisa," conference organizers plan to invite the veterans of the People Power Part 2 to a one-day forum to listen to newly-appointed Cabinet secretaries and help them effectively secure popular support for their initiatives.

According to Tetchi Capella, Urduja president and one of the convenors of the conference, they are requesting Cabinet members to present the highlights of the 100-day agenda. During the presentations, the organizers expect the secretaries in various departments to provide concrete action plans that are doable in the first hundred days. "We view this as some sort of a confidence building measure between government and civil society," said Capella.

The most interesting part of the conference is the immediate polling that will be undertaken after every presentation. "As planned, we will ask all the participants to register their sentiments by conducting an on-the-spot survey. The results of these survey will then be posted physically and electronically," said Teodora president Maribel Descallar. "They will also be presented to President Gloria after the conference."

The congress seeks to draw individuals and personages of various organizations that actively took part in the Edsa Revolution. It hopes to support the present dispensation by creating consultative and feedback mechanisms to ensure effective and good governance. "The women's groups seek to not only provide feedback but to help the Macapagal government install a good government. During the conference, participants will not only register their opinion on the 100-day agenda. We are also asking them to give suggestions to improve the action programs," said Capellan.

The congress is slated on Feb. 24, a day before the Edsa celebration. The website, edsaveteran.org, will also be launched to secure a wider consultation on the 100-day agenda of the President.

Join the 'DanceMania' and win Siemens' latest mobile phones

STUDENTS can now have a chance to own the new Siemens SL45, the mobile phone that can store 35-45 minutes of almost CD quality music with its built-in MP3 player.

DanceMania, a dance workout inter-school competition for high school and college students, will beheld in eight different schools, using the Dance Revo machine from Worlds Of Fun Amusement.

Elimination rounds for the singles and doubles category will take place in each school on a scheduled date from Feb. 9 to March 16, 2001. Winners will represent their school in the grand finals on March 17, 2001 at SM Megamall Building A, to be hosted by popular DJs of RX 93.1 Monster Radio.

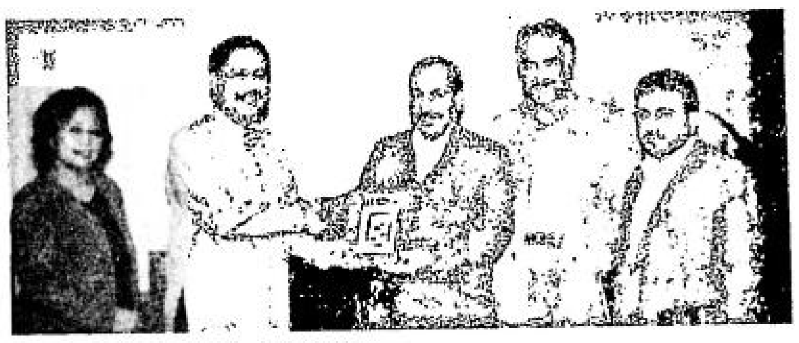
Prizes at stake will be various models of Siemens Mobile Phones, including the latest, the Siemens SL45.

Siemens Mobile Phones is currently one of the market leaders in the country. Its best-selling phones include the C25, S25, A35, A36 and the three WAP mobile phones C35i, M35i. Its latest models, the SL 45 and S40 mobile phones, are seen to become top picks in the mobile phone market. Sleek and stylish, the Siemens SL45 is a dual-band, WAP-ready phone with a built-in MP3 player that can store up to 35-45 minutes of CD-quality music in its memory. As the SL45 can also be integrated with Microsoft Outlook, it serves as a digital organizer and mobile phone in one. The Siemens S40, on the other hand, is a tri-band, WAP-ready phone that offers accessibility and reliability to mobile phone users who travel around the globe.

For contest details, students can refer to posters in their school bulletin boards and contact their school organizers or call Siemens Mobile Phones at 814-9634/814-9-70.

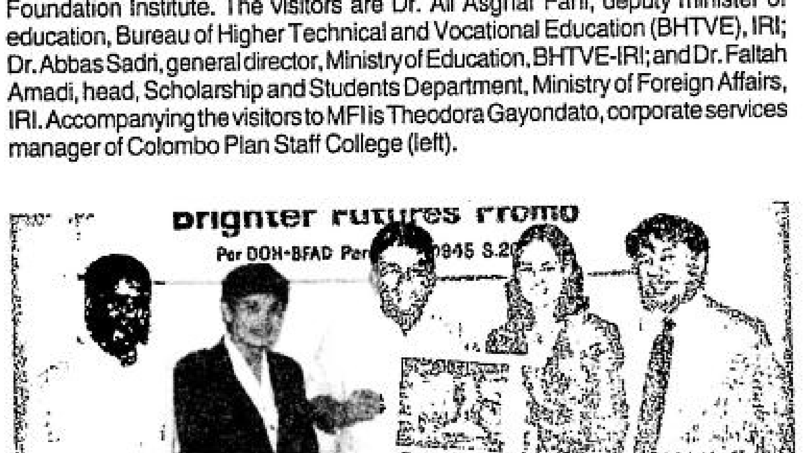
MUSIC AND MEMORIES

Music and Memories Bar and Video Lounge, located at the second floor of IDC Center Kalayaan Ave., Makati City will usher its clients down memory lane with fun and laughter via "Music and Memories at Music and Memories," a standup comedy that will spice up a romantic evening as the group of (from left) Alaine, Jimmy (Music and Memories manager), Twinkle, Magica, KC, Sonia and Amel (not in photo) perform their own interpretations of pop and new wave love songs. Tickets are at P250 for two. Information can be obtained from Ellen Castillo at 8969113.



IRANIAN EXECS AT MFI

MFI president Col. Alex T. Escaño (second from left) welcomes the top education officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) to a guided tour of the facilities of Meralco Foundation Institute. The visitors are Dr. Ali Asghar Fani, deputy minister of education, Bureau of Higher Technical and Vocational Education (BHTVE), IRI; Dr. Abbas Sadri, general director, Ministry of Education, BHTVE-IRI; and Dr. Faltah Amadi, head, Scholarship and Students Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IRI. Accompanying the visitors to MFI is Theodora Gayondato, corporate services manager of Colombo Plan Staff College (left).



'BRIGHTER FUTURE' PROMO

New Zealand Milk (Philippines) Inc. recently launched its "Brighter Future Promo," an exclusive promotion with Mercury Drug Corporation where CAP Education Plans worth P200,000 and P100,000 will be given to lucky Anchor milk drinkers. Shown after the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement are (from left) Emil dela Cruz, NZM national accounts specialist; Len Jose; Mario Marron, Mercury Drug Corporation AVP for Creative Business Support Group, Merchandising Division; Sarah Hocken, Anchor marketing executive and Richard Tay, NZM marketing manager.

15th DISTRICT CHORAL CONTEST

DISTRICT CHORAL FEST

The Rotary Club of Chinatown-Manila of R.I. District 3810 hosted the 15th District Choral Fest. Charter president Harry Angping chaired the event. St. Scholastica High School Glee Club won the 1st prize. Shown are (seated, from left) PE Olive Dy Sun of RCCM, Ruben Siao of RCMC, DDCC Linda Josol, DAD Rosie Go, Gov. Charoy Marquez, vice chair Mylene H. Co, district secretary Ruben Fruto and PP Ruby Balran of RCCM.

USA Sports gets Manila in shape

USA Sports, a sport-type garment manufacturer based in Cebu recently opened its first sales outlet in Filinvest Festival Mall. USA Sports collection features a range of apparel from casual tees to serious performance wear using 3M Scotchlite Reflective material. Its merchandise reflects the brand's commitment to quality and innovation. Each product is constructed from durable fabric for optimum comfort. It also has accessories that complement your athletic outfit.

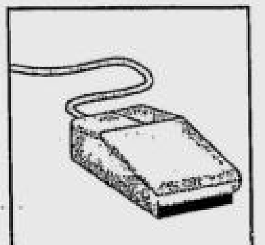
USA Sports also showcases a whole line of aerodynamically designed eyewear and offers a series of sports time pieces specially manufactured by one of America's watch makers.

Camarin High homecoming

Camarin High School Batch '76 is going to celebrate its silver anniversary on March 25, 2001. With the theme "Balik Paaralan: Pagbibigkis ng Karanasan Tungo sa Makabuluhang Kinabukasan," the whole-day affair is going to be held at the Old Camarin High School building, located at the Camarin Elementary School Building in Camarin I, Area A, Caloocan City. For more information, contact Danilo Velasco at 741-2537 or 373-4790, Loncia dela Cruz-Garcia at 997-8487 or Marissa Amar-Santos at 735-1957.

'MS. SAIGON' TICKET WINNER

Theresa Mercado (shown with daughter in photo) is one of the lucky PLDT IDD callers who received premium tickets to the hottest musical sensation in town, "Miss Saigon." Mercado was randomly chosen from a list of heavy IDD users with good credit standing. Call 171 now for your free PLDT IDD activation.



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EDITORS & JOURNALISTS • CABLE WORKERS • FILM/ T.V./ RADIO PRODUCERS • FINANCIAL MANAGERS • LEGAL CONSULTANTS & PARALEGALS • LIBRARIANS • MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS • MED. REPRESENTATIVES/ TECHNOLOGISTS • MANAGERS • TELECOM STAFF • TOOL & DIE MAKERS • SHEET METAL WORKERS • MACHINISTS • MECHANICAL ENGINEERS • ELECTRICAL SERVICE TECHNICIANS • COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYSTS & PROGRAMMERS • COMPUTER NUMERICAL CONTROL (CNC) • MACHINE TOOL OPERATORS • AIRCRAFT MECHANICS/ TECHNICIANS • RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIANS • PLUMBERS • COMPUTER ENGINEERS • INDUSTRIAL INSTRUMENT TECHNICIANS/ MECHANICS • INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIANS, ENGINEERS & TECHNICIANS • INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING TECHNICIANS • IT PROFESSIONALS • FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT ANALYSTS • OPERATING ROOM TECHNICIANS • STATISTICIANS • SOCIAL WORKERS • WRITERS • TRAINING OFFICERS • TRAVEL AGENTS • ZOOLOGISTS • BUSINESSMEN • INVESTORS

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MANILA SEMINAR DETAILS

MANILA
Date : February 17, 2001 (Saturday)
• 1 p.m. Australia / New Zealand • 2:30 p.m. USA
• 4 p.m. Canada • 5 p.m. Caregiver
Venue : MAKATI SHANGRI LA HOTEL (Makati Room), Makati Ave. cor. Ayala Avenue, Makati
Contact Person : INS MIS
Tel. Nos. : 891 5686 to 89 / 891-5920 to 21
Fees : P700 Prepaid (per country) or P900 Walk-in (per country)

CABANATUAN CITY
Date : February 17, 2001 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.
Venue : LA PARILLA HOTEL, Melencio cor. Zulueta St., Cabanatuan City
Contact Person : Dolly Pablo @ Dolly's Flower Shop Supermarket, Cabanatuan City
Tel. Nos. : (044) 463 0160; 463 2562; (0918) 910-2804
Fees : P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

ILOILO CITY
Date : February 18, 2001 (Sunday) 2:00 p.m.
Venue : Rm. 210, 2/F MAGDALENA COMMERCIAL CENTER, J.M. Basa St., Iloilo City
Contact Person : INS MIS
Tel. Nos. : (33) 336 1883; 508 7143; 508-7137
Fees : P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

MINDORO
Date : February 17, 2001 (Saturday) 2:00 p.m.
Venue : MICROTEL INN & SUITES, Filipiniana Calapan, National Highway, Sto. Niño Calapan City
Contact Person : Jaycee Eje
Tel. Nos. : (043) 288 7624 or 30
Fees : P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

BACOLOD CITY
Date : February 17, 2001 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.
Venue : HOTEL ALHAMBRA, cor. Galo-Locsin Sts., Bacolod City
Contact Person : Christine Ramos
Tel. Nos. : (034) 709 3222, 434-4850
Fees : P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

NAGA CITY
Date : February 25, 2001 (Sunday) 2:00 p.m.
Venue : GRAND IMPERIAL PLAZA, cor. P. Burgos & J. Hernandez Ave., Naga City
Contact Person : Karen Fabul
Tel. Nos. : (054) 621 1429 or INS Legazpi @ (052) 820 6168; 480 3948; 245-5641
Fees : P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

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MANILA
Date February 17, 2001 (Saturday)
• 1 p.m. Australia / New Zealand • 2:30 p.m. USA
• 4 p.m. Canada • 5 p.m. Caregiver
Venue MAKATI SHANGRI LA HOTEL

CABANATUAN CITY
Date Feb. 17, 2001 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m.
Venue LA PARILLA HOTEL

ILOILO CITY
Date Feb. 18, 2001 (Sun.) 2:00 p.m.
Venue MAGDALENA COMMERCIAL CENTER

MINDORO
Date Feb. 17, 2001 (Sat.) 2:00 p.m.
Venue MICROTEL INN & SUITES

BACOLOD
Date Feb. 17, 2001 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m.
Venue HOTEL ALHAMBRA

NAGA CITY
Date Feb. 25, 2001 (Sun.) 2:00 p.m.
Venue GRAND IMPERIAL PLAZA

For Inquiries, CALL : 891-5686 TO 89 / 891-5780
E-mail : ins@qinet.net & insglobal@qinet.net • Website: www.ins-global.com
[illegible]
CEBU • DAVAO • DAGUPAN • CAGAYAN DE ORO • ILOILO • LAOAG • LEGASPI

TENDER NOTICE

MacroAsia-Eurest Catering Services
An Associate of SATS

MacroAsia Eurest Catering Services (MECS), the first fully-functional In-flight catering center to operate within the premises of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is a partnership among three highly reputable and progressive companies namely - MacroAsia Corporation, Eurest International (a division of publicly listed UK company Compass Group) and Singapore Airport Terminal Services (a wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore Airlines).

Today, MacroAsia Eurest Catering Services is the market leader in the airline catering industry, serving the meal requirements of at least fifteen international airlines...

MECS invites all interested subcontractors/suppliers to submit tender or bids for the supply of the following:

Tender Code	Item/Description
MECS-TC-00-M	Meat Frozen - Beef, Lamb, Pork, Veal
MECS-IT-00-P&D	Chicken, Quail, Duck, Turkey, Egg (Fresh), Egg (Pasteurized) Butter, Margarine, Cheese, Cream, Yogurt, Ice Cream, Milk
MECS-TC-00-Bev	Beverages (Mineral Water, Juices, Carbonated Beverages, Wines)
MECS-TC-00-DG	Canned Dry Goods, Sauces, Spices, Pasta/Noodles, Grocery Items Nuts, Oils, Food Extracts, Rice & Grains, Vinegar
MECS-TC-00-Br	Breads, Pastries, Bakery Items
MECS-TC-00-FV	Canned Preserved Fruits, Canned/Frozen processed Vegetables Herbs, Spices, Fresh Fruits, Fresh Vegetables

Tender application form and or diskette containing the required info and form are available at the MECS Purchasing Department from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. from **February 12 to 16, 2001** ONLY.

Deadline for the submission of bids is on or before **February 23, 2001** (3:00 p.m.). The subcontractor is required to submit the duly filled-up/updated diskette issued by MECS together with a printed copy of the bid. The bid and the diskette shall be deposited in the Tender Box located at the Security office of MECS.

Interested parties are also encouraged to log-on to www.cateringX.com and place their bids.

Shortlisted subcontractors will be asked to present properly marked samples of their products on or before **March 7, 2001**. The required two (2) pieces samples are to be submitted to MECS Purchasing Department.

MACROASIA EUREST CATERING SERVICES (MECS)
Catering City, Asia Site, Kalayaan Road
Cor. West Service Road, Merville Exit, NAIA, Pasay City 1300

(PDI - Feb. 11, 2001)

NOTICE AND WARNING

It has come to the attention and knowledge of our client that certain companies/manufacturers are making misrepresentations, claiming to be affiliated with or a sister company of "*La Pacita*" and "*Felicisimo Martinez and Company Inc.*"

Our client has neither authorized any entity to use the name of "*La Pacita*" nor does it have an affiliate company authorized to distribute similar biscuit products in the market. DO NOT BE DECEIVED.

Unauthorized manufacturers, distributors and dealers tending to imitate La Pacita Biscuits and Cookies or misrepresenting to be a "sister Company" or affiliate of "*La Pacita*" and "*Felicisimo Martinez and Company, Inc.*" should stop their infringing and/or unauthorized activities. Otherwise, we shall initiate civil, criminal and administrative actions against the violators to protect the rights and interests of our client including those of its valued customers.

URBANO PALAMOS & FABROS
Counsel For Felicisimo Martinez & Company Incorporated
Suite 508, Future Point Plaza I
112 Panay Avenue, Quezon City

(PDI – Feb. 11, 2001)

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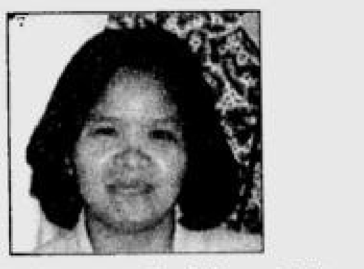
ANNOUNCEMENT



SOFIA (PIA) AQUINO, has a pending Warrant of Arrest in Criminal Case No. 118474 issued by Regional Trial Court City of Pasig, Branch 267, for **Estafa.**

Please direct any information leading to her arrest or whereabouts to:

WARNER LAMBERT CREDIT COOPERATIVE
23rd Floor, Ayala Life-FGU Center
No. 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 864-3725; 888-6001 Loc. 725
Fax No. 864-3679; 864-3622

(PDI – Feb. 11 & 15, 2001)

AUCTION

HUGE QUANTITY OF SUPERB QUALITY EXECUTIVE, GENERAL OFFICE, LIBRARY AND CANTEEN FURNITURE

Over 800 lots including

(32) EXECUTIVE OFFICES Containing: -, Single Pedestal Wooden Desks w/ Returns; Double Pedestal Wooden Desks; Glass Topped Meeting Tables; Wooden Meeting Tables; Glass Topped Centre Tables; Marble Topped End Tables, Wooden Credenzas; Wooden End Tables; Large Wooden Storage Cabinets; Wooden Framed Guest Chairs; Two/Three-Seater Leatherette/Fabric Upholstered Sofas; Fabric Upholstered Arm Chairs; Wooden Shelf Units; Back Cabinets; Steel Framed Shelf Unit; Desk Lamps etc. CONFERENCE ROOM FURNITURE - 16', 10' and 8' Wooden Conference Tables; White Boards, etc. GENERAL OFFICE FURNITURE - Single/Double Pedestal Wooden Clerical Desks; Wooden Typewriter Tables; Four/Three/Two-Drawer Steel Filing Cabinets; Wooden Pigeon Hole Cabinets; Wooden Mail Room Furniture; LAMEX Type Storage Cabinets; Steel Framed Chairs; Leatherette Clerical Chairs; Two-Drawer Steel Pedestals, etc. LIBRARY FURNITURE - A Large Qty. Of Wooden Book Shelves; etc. RECEPTION FURNITURE - Reception Desks; Fabric Upholstered Chairs; Leatherette Sofas; Wooden Magazine Racks, etc. CANTEEN FURNITURE - Wooden Canteen Tables; Monoblock Chairs; Single Door Refrigerators, etc. MISCELLANEOUS - Wooden Display Boxes; PVC Floor Protectors; Wooden Plant Holders; White Boards; Cork Notice Boards; Horizontal/Vertical Blinds; Pedestal Fans; Desktop Fans

AT: 7th, 8th & 14th Floors Multinational Bancorporation Centre,
6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
ON: Saturday, 17th February 2001 at 10:30am Sharp
ON VIEW: Friday, 16th February 2001, 9:00am - 5:00pm
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP10,000 (Upon Registration)

HENRY BUTCHER
Industrial Auctioneers & Valuers

HENRY BUTCHER & CO. (PHILS.), INC.
102 Ground Floor, Jolliland Building, 670 EDSA, Pasay City
Tel: (63-2)-852 2910 * 11 Fax: (63-2)-831-9507
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
www.henrybutcher.com

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
Abelardo Samonte Hall, College, Laguna 4031 Philippines
Tel. Nos. (049) 536-3484/436-2748 Fax NO. (049) 536-2749
E-mail: ovcpd@admi.uplb.edu.ph

Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Planning and Development

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS
(INFRASTRUCTURE)

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

Sealed bids for the furnishing of labor and materials for the INSTALLATION OF GEN-SET INCLUDING PROVISION OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND OTHER APPURTENANT CIVIL AND MECHANICAL WORKS, POWER SUB-STATION, SILANGAN ROAD, UPLB CAMPUS, COLLEGE, LAGUNA will be received at the Operations Room, Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB, College, Laguna not later than 2:00 PM, **APRIL 03, 2001** at which place, time and date said bids will be publicly opened.

Interested bidders who wish to prequalify may obtain prequalificaiton statement forms (PRE-C) at the Campus Planning and Development Office (CPDO), UPLB, College, Laguna from **FEBRUARY 12, 2001** to **FEBRUARY 16, 2001** and should submit the same not later than **FEBRUARY 21, 2001** to the CPDO, UPLB, College, Laguna. It is mandatory that the contractor presents the original copy (with a photocopy) of the current PCAB Contractor's License with the Integrated Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors for Government Infrastructure Projects for authentication.

The application for prequalification is open to all local Filipino contractors who are registered, categorized and classified by PCAB as contractors for government infrastructure projects with Size Range (Category) and Kind of Project (Classification) as Small B—General Engineering with specialty in Electrical Works and Mechanical Works (Small B).

Proposal forms and other related documents are available for issuance to qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS ONE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P1,000.00) per set of documents from **MARCH 12, 2001** to **MARCH 16, 2001** at the CPDO, UPLB, College, Laguna.

Site inspection will be conducted at 1:00 PM and pre-bidding conference will be held at 2:00 PM on **MARCH 20, 2001** at the Operations Room, Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB, College, Laguna.

All particulars relative to prequalification, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended on **May 24, 2000** and its further amendment on **July 05, 2000** and other applicable rules and regulations.

The U.P. Los Baños reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received and to accept such bids as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **CASIANO S. ABRIGO, JR.**
Vice Chancellor
and
Chairman

(PDI – Feb. 11, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
OLD NAWASA BLDG. ☐ 176 ARROCEROS STREET ☐ 1000 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Office of the Ombudsman is inviting prospective bidders to prequalify and to bid for the following:

LOT A	COMPUTER UNITS	
	11 units	Computer, Intel Pentium III w/ 14" Color Monitor
	03 units	Computer, Intel Pentium III w/ 14" Paperwhite Monitor
	07 units	Laser Printer
	07 units	Dot Matrix Printer
LOT B	DRINKING WATER	
	One year supplies of Purified/Mineral Drinking Water	
	36 btls.	of 5 gallons capacity for daily use w/ Hot and Cold Dispenser per btl.

Pre-qualification forms and other requirement may be secured from the Property Management Section/General Services Division, Ground Floor, 176 Old NAWASA Building, Arroceros Street, Manila.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

1. Pre-Bid Conference - **13 February 2001 @ 9:30 AM**
2. Deadline of Submission:
   a. Pre-Qualification Requirement - **16 February 2001 @ 4:00 PM**
   b. Technical & Financial Proposal - **27 February 2001 @ 9:00 AM**
3. Opening of Bids
   a. Technical & Financial - **27 February 2001 @ 9:30 AM**

Bid documents will be issued upon payment of non-refundable bidding fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

Financial proposal shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond either in the form of GSIS Bond, Cashier/Manager's Check and or Cash Bond of at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The Office of the Ombudsman reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Office.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO I. TAN**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Feb. 9, 10 & 11, 2001)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

2nd INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and with extensive experience in the Design, Supply and Installation of Sewage Treatment Plant for high rise office buildings, first class hotels or projects of identical scope, are invited to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for Contract Package 22: Design, Supply and Installation of Sewage Treatment Plant for the new LBP HQ. Building in Ermita, Manila, with the following schedule:

Project Title	Estimated Cost	Issuance of Pre-C	Issuance of Notice of Prequalification/ Predisqualification	Issuance of Bid Docs	Pre-Bid	Bidding Date
Contract Package No. 22: Design, Supply and Installation of Sewage Treatment Plant	Php 28 Million	February 16 to 19, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.	March 2, 2001	March 8, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	March 12, 2001 10:00 A.M.	March 15, 2001 9:00 A.M.

Interested suppliers may obtain Pre-C application forms from the Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 2F LBP Bldg. 3, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P 1,000.00.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statements (Pre-C) shall be submitted to the above-stated office not later than **February 27, 2001** after which no Pre-C will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of their pre-qualification/or pre-disqualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the PMED Office on the above-stated dates, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P 1,000.00.

Pre-bid conference will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Room, 2nd Flr. LBP Building 3, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted at the same venue as the Pre-Bid conference, using the two (2) sealed envelope system (*envelopes "A & B"*) to be submitted to and received at the PMED Office on the above stated bidding date and time, after which no envelopes will be received.

The Bank reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission of bids and the bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

The Bank likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **GILDA E. PICO**
Chairman
LBP Sub-Committee on the LBP HQ Plaza

(PDI--Feb. 10, 11 & 14, 2001)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ALI MALL, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance

CBRMP

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE
COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) of the Department of Finance is inviting interested applicants to fill in the following vacant positions:

INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST - CENTRAL OFFICE

Qualification Standards

1. Master's degree in Development Communication, Mass Communication or Journalism, preferably with specialization or equivalent experience in educational communication, popular writing, or production of instructional materials;
2. At least three years progressively responsible experience in making readable, appealing and user friendly publications in the fields of natural resources, agriculture, environment, fisheries, or rural development;
3. Proven ability to write clearly and concisely, do line drawings, take photos, design webpages, and use desktop publishing software (MS Publisher, Pagemaker, Adobe Illustrator, CorelDraw, Photo Paint, etc.) for rural and non technical audiences; and
4. Willing and physically fit to travel to rural municipalities in Regions V, VII, VIII and XIII, and interact with LGUs, upland farmers, fisherfolks, village leaders, and people's organizations.

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER - CENTRAL OFFICE

Qualification Standards

1. Must be a licensed Civil Engineer with at least three years of experience in rural infrastructure projects and/or implementing small scale infrastructure projects and community based projects, project management related to construction supervision, engineering design development, and in a wide range of responsibilities in rural infrastructure development projects;
2. With at least three years in government procurement system and procedures for various works, goods and services; and in foreign assisted project;
3. Excellent oral and written communication skills in technical report writing, project documentation, and monitoring and evaluation of projects;
4. Computer literate with working knowledge and experience in AutoCAD programs, Microsoft windows, Excel spreadsheets, and other related software;
5. With at least three years of supervision experience; and
6. Must be willing to travel and conduct periodic training, supervision and monitoring works in on-going sub-projects in Regions V, VII, VIII and XIII.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT FOR PROJECT SUPERVISION - CENTRAL OFFICE

Qualification

1. Graduate of Forestry, Fisheries, Agriculture, Rural development or any related fields, holder of Master's degree preferable;
2. At least three years of progressive experience in the monitoring and supervision of NRM projects;
3. Excellent ability to work with multidisciplinary team, rural communities, LGUs, and other agencies;
4. Excellent writing and oral communication skills;
5. Proficient in the use of computer and has working knowledge of relevant computer programs;
6. Willing and physically fit to travel to Regions V, VII, VIII and XIII.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT FOR PROCUREMENT - CENTRAL OFFICE

Qualification

1. Preferably graduate of Engineering, Commerce, Agriculture or Natural resources-related courses;
2. Should have attended at least (40 hours) of seminars/training on procurement;
3. With at least five (5) years experience on procurement in accordance with World Bank, other international financing institution (IFIs), and government rules and regulations;
4. Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities and multidisciplinary team of technical staff and experts;
5. Must be computer literate;
6. Must have good communication skills;
7. Must be willing to travel to Regions V, VII, VIII and XIII (Caraga); and
8. With good moral character.

PROJECT SUPERVISION SPECIALIST - REGION V

Qualification

1. Must be registered Civil Engineer with at least (3) years relevant experience;
2. Must have at least three (3) years experience in implementing and supervising small-scale rural infrastructure projects and community-based or LGU-based projects;
3. With adequate experience in procurement of goods and services in accordance with the usual government rules and regulations;
4. Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities and multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts;
5. With very good technical writing and communication skills;
6. Must be computer literate;
7. Must be willing to be assigned in Region V; and
8. Must be able to speak and understand the local dialect.

Interested applicants may send their letter of application, resumé, transcript of records, and 2x2 picture not later than February 28, 2001 to:

COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
Attention : THE PROJECT MANAGER
7th Floor EDPC Building
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Malate, Manila

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

HARIBON
FOUNDATION

PROJECT MANAGER (appropriate college or post graduate degree)
- a comprehensive knowledge of Philippine biodiversity
- proven management skills
- good working relationship with government, NGOs and the donor community

Senior Project Administrator (appropriate college degree)
- excellent communication skills verbal and written
- willing to travel
- has experience in project management

Technical Officers (4) (appropriate college or post graduate degree)
- with appropriate field experience in Philippine biodiversity (esp. terrestrial vertebrates and their habitats) and conservation, conservation planning and management
- must have very good writing skills needed for technical report preparation
- must be prepared for frequent travels and extended work in the field anywhere in the country; have working knowledge in legislation and local government; must be able to work well with other members of the team; experience in meeting and dealing with local government officials, other NGOs;

Land Use/Mapping Specialist (appropriate college degree)
- experience in actual mapping and land use mapping as well as community mapping;
- experience/familiarity with GPS and GIS
- must be willing to travel for extended period to project sites in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao

Field Personnel/Community Organizers
(6:2 Luzon, 2 Visayas, 2 Mindanao) (appropriate college or post graduate degree)
- experience in organizing communities
- can relate and cultivate good working relationship with community leaders and members, local government officials and local DENR personnel
- good report writing skills; must be very proficient in local dialect; must be from the region or province of the selected site

Training specialist (appropriate college or post graduate degree)
- good experience in training needs analysis;
- capability in training design, module development and implementation
- tested ability to deal with government staff; NGOs and local communities
- must be able to conduct seminars and workshops
- skilled in preparing and submitting reports

Information, Education & Communication Specialist
(appropriate college or post graduate degree)
- good experience as an IEC worker and writer
- has experience in planning and developing information, education and communications requirements of the project
- can conduct perception survey
- has experience and capability to deal with local government, NGOs and local communities
- must be able to conduct seminars and workshops
- skilled in preparing and submitting reports

Legal Officer (Professional)
- good experience in legislative processes
- has adequate knowledge of NIPAS Act, Local Government Code, Forestry, wildlife, environment and land use laws and other related laws
- can conduct seminars/workshops
- skilled in preparing/writing and submitting reports

Accountant (Professional)
- extensive experience in accounting
- check financial records for financial report preparation and internal auditing requirements
- computer literate

Secretary
- Computer literate
- highly organized, can work with minimum supervision
- has good communication skills both written and oral

Bookkeeper
- must be an accountant graduate (Passed CPA Boards preferred)
- must have at least one (1) year experience
- willing to work long hours

Customer Service Operations Manager
- at least 2 years experience with customer service and very customer focused
- must be extremely organized, resourceful, flexible and a quick learner
- has excellent communication skills both written and oral
- has experience in data management, numerate and computer literate
- has ability to meet deadlines and accomplish tasks on a short time frame

All interested applicants must submit resumés and letter of application on or before February 23, 2001 to:

Administrative and Finance Officer
Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources Inc.
No. 9 Malingap cor. Malumanay Sts., Teachers' Village
Diliman, Quezon City
For inquiries call: 925-3332/435-3208/433-3476
Fax No. 925-3331

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

GENERAL MANAGER

FOR

Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(MARELCO)
Ihatub, Boac, Marinduque

Qualifications:
Applicant may be male or female, must be at least 30 but not more than 55 years old, college graduate (in Business Management, Accounting/Finance, Engineering or Behavioral Sciences) preferably with Master's degree in Business Management Administration or Industrial Management, and must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience.

STARTING SALARY: P15,000.00
Application forms and additional information may be obtained at the Cooperative Operations Department, 3rd Floor, NFA Building, NIA Road, Government Center, Diliman, Quezon City, or at the Regional Electrification Office IV, Parian, Calamba, Laguna. Deadline for submission of application forms is on **05 March 2001.**

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
Urgently need of

ELECTRICIAN/SERVICE ELECTRICIAN

Bring the following:
1. Resumé with photo
2. Credential/Transcript of records
3. Employment Cert.
4. NBI Clearance (if available)

Applicant must be 21-35 years old, look for Engr. Jose Bacle/Engr. Loreto Insular Jr. Tel. 535-3208 Address: 428 Bulalakaw Street, Mandaluyong City.

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB ONLINE

PILIPINAS KANEKO SEEDS CORPORATION, a Filipino-Japanese joint venture engaged in contract growing, domestic sales and exportation of high quality vegetable seeds seeks to identify competent individuals for the following positions:

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

The person we seek is:

- a male or female, graduate of B.S. in Accountancy, preferably a CPA, 25 to 30 years old;
- equipped with at least 3 years of experience from an auditing company
- ambitious, analytical, attentive to details, and with high supervisory potentials
- has facility in oral and written communications
- must be familiar with MS Word and Excel applications

2 TECHNICAL SALESMEN

One will be based in Northern Luzon while the other will be based at the Bicol Region. The successful hirees will be responsible for promoting the company's different products.

The persons we seek are:

- male, graduates of B.S. in Agriculture, Major in Horticulture or Agronomy, 21 to 25 years old;
- ambitious and aggressive, flexible and capable of adjusting to different types of people and situation;
- willing to travel/accept provincial assignment/field work and can drive 2-wheel and 4-wheel vehicles;
- with good communication skills, preferably fluent in the dialect/s of area applied for

An attractive benefits package await the successful candidates.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumés indicating latest salary with contact phone numbers and recent photos not later than ***February 28, 2001*** *to the following address:*

PILIPINAS KANEKO SEEDS CORPORATION
Rm. 606 Cattleya Condominium Building
235 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City, Metro Manila
Fax No. 818-05-94
E-mail address: pilkaneko@skyinet.net

A prestigious financial institution based in Makati accepts qualified applicants for the following Senior Officer positions:

One (1) Head, Risk Management Unit

- Extensive experience / seasoned skills in risk management
- Preferably not more than 45 years old

One (1) Chief Information Officer

- Extensive experience / seasoned skills in information technology
- Preferably not more than 45 years old

Please mail applications to
P.O. Box 1996
Makati Central Post Office 1200

IF YOU ARE A

LICENSED MALE TEACHER

between 21-35 years old, with good moral character and one who possesses manly virtues, and also good in both oral and written communication skills (English and Filipino, or Spanish), then **PAREF-NORTHFIELD SCHOOL FOR BOYS, INC.** needs you!

Applicants are requested to submit their Resumé with Letter of Application, Transcript of Records, NBI Clearance, Medical Certificate, Marriage Contract (if married), 2x2 ID picture and other credentials to:

MR. HOMER Z. DUGENIA
on February 12-16, 2001
at #107 Sct. Gandia Street, Kamuning, Quezon City
from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon only
E-mail: northfield@paref.org.

FINANCING EXPERT
Financial Packaging of Renewable Energy Projects thru Government and Private Sector
Grad in Bus/Fin/Econ

MARKETING EXPERT
Green Marketing
National/International
Use Internet

Please call Center for Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency 0917-388-5251 or e-mail resumé to: decastro@pacific.net.ph

NEED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
(Local Employment)

OFFICE SUPERVISOR
- Must be a Psychology or Management graduate
- At least 2 years experience in a supervisory/administrative work
- Hand-on experience in policy making
- Computer literate (MSWord, Excel, Powerpoint, Access)

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Must be an Accounting graduate
- At least 1 year experience in general accounting
- Computer literate (MSWord, Excel, Access)

LIAISON OFFICER
- Must be college graduate
- With computer knowledge

SECRETARY/COMPUTER OPERATOR
- Must be a graduate of any business or computer course
- At least 2 years experience
- Computer literate and knowledgeable in the Internet
- Knowledgeable in correspondence/business writing

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE FEMALE. APPLY PERSONALLY WITH RESUMÉ (with detailed job description), SCHOOL RECORDS, EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION AND RECENT 2X2 PICTURES AT:

RME
Rm. 209 L&S Building 1414 Roxas Blvd.
Ermita, Manila

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- At least 3 years experience in the same or related field in a supervisory or managerial position
- Must be a CPA

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

- Engineering or technical course graduate
- At least 1 year experience in the same or related field in a supervisory level

MATERIAL CONTROL CLERKS

- Preferably with Accounting background
- At least 1 year experience in the same or related field.

Please send resumés to or apply in person at:

THE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
Belman Building, Sheridan corner Reliance Street
Mandaluyong City 1501
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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
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Interested applicants are invited to come for an interview on February 13 and 14 (Tuesday & Wednesday) 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with comprehensive resumé, ID photos and SSS No. at

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PPC Engineer

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*Qualified applicants must bring personally their resumé, transcript of records and other credentials not later than **February 13, 2001** to:*

Ms. Thelma M. Galang
HRD-L & K Industries Philippines, Inc.
Phase 1, Lot C-2&D, CPIP Compound
MA Roxas Highway Clarkfield, Pamp.
Tel.# 045-599-5136 to 40
Fax# 045-599-5135
E-mail: thelma@lk.to

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* UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (UMC) first group of Filipino RNs and their dependents with immigrant working visas are scheduled to depart for the U.S.A. on Feb. 20, 2001.

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R.N.'S WITH EXCELLENT SCHOLASTIC RECORDS AND HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE ARE MOST WELCOME TO APPLY

Mr. John Gover *of* INTERSTAFF , INC., a full service staffing provider based in Houston, Texas, will be in Manila together with Mesdames Joyce Timmons and Coleen Smith of UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER commencing Feb. 12th thru 15th to identify qualified candidates.

To take advantage of this opportunity, Metro Manila candidates must personally apply asap or no later than February 13, 2001 by submitting comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to

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(Microstation only) Need apply.
2 to 3 years experience. A knowledge of Mechanical and Electrical Services in the Construction Industry is preferred for this position.

Send or bring Resumé to:
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Fax: 813-9075 E-mail: forspac@info.com.ph

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GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS
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Interested applicants may send their resume to :
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209 Escolta cor. Nueva St., Binondo, Manila
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Our Company is involved in the distribution of rapid diagnostic tests in the Philippines. As part of our 2001 expansion, we are looking for partners in the following areas: *Regions 2, 4, 5, 8, & 9* and the *Provinces of Bohol & Quezon.*

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- Male/Female, 28-35 years old, good communication skills
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- Male/Female, 21 to 30 years old, good communication skills
- Graduate of Marketing, Nursing, Medical Technology, Physical Therapy or other paramedical course

Successful candidates for both positions will be based in Davao City.

Please submit your resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to:

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Rm. 413 Central Plaza Building
J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel. (082) 227-7185; Fax 227-7124

or

RG MEDITRON - CEBU
Rm. 7, 2/F Albulario Building
Phase 2, 37 Gen. Maxilom Avenue
Tel. (032) 231-0043, 231-0026

RG MEDITRON - QUEZON CITY
LFG Building, #82 Panay Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 372-3846 to 55 loc. 113
Fax 372-3256
E-mail: hrdactla@nsclub.net

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United Nations Children's Fund

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Provide support in the purchasing requirements of the office, in accordance with policies and procedures. Assist in processing documents related to the purchase of needed supplies and equipment. Assist the Supervisor in logistics and distribution support. Assist in the planning and implementation of procurement services on behalf of programme counterparts and UNICEF Copenhagen Supply Division. Assist in arranging import formalities. Identify and liaise with local brokers/forwarders for shipments requiring inland distribution. Prepare periodic reports on procurement services.

Six years' progressively responsible administrative/clerical work in the area of purchasing/importing supplies and equipment. Knowledgeable of import/forwarding/warehousing requirements. University degree in Business Management or related field. Very good negotiating and communication skills. Excellent computer skills.

Please RUSH application letter together with bio-data to the Operations Officer, UNICEF, P.O. Box 1076 MCPO, 1250 Makati City. Closing date for application is **19 February 2001**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview.

UNICEF is a non-smoking working environment.
Applications from qualified women are encouraged.

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BOOKKEEPER

Qualification:
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- Computer literate - Excel, Accounting software, Win. 95
- Preferably single, at least 25 years old

Requirements:
- Resumé
- Transcript of Records
- 2 x 2 photo

Apply personally at 115 Kamuning Road, Quezon City between 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A garment manufacturing firm located at the Mactan Export Processing Zone, Lapulapu City, Cebu is in urgent need of:

ONE (1) PRODUCTION MANAGER

- Female, 30-40 years old
- Preferably a graduate of BS Industrial Engineering or any 4-year related course
- Must have at least 3-5 years experience in a garment manufacturing environment as Production Manager
- Able to develop, control & implement effective production strategies & systems
- Mature, dynamic & result-oriented
- Possess good managerial & leadership skills

Qualified applicants are requested to e-mail applications, resumés & other credentials not later than **February 19, 2001** to:

yaying@cebu.webling.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District III
NAIA

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE
Regular & Special
(February 2001)

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines as amended, in relation to the provisions Customs Administrative Order No. 5-90 dated July 17, 1990, there will be Auction Sales through **SEALED BIDDING/AS IS, WHERE IS BASIS** at the Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, NAIA Customhouse, 4th Floor BOC Building, MIA Road, Pasay City, to wit:

1. **Regular AUCTION SALE on February 14, 2001** at two o'clock in the afternoon of the herein described articles:

   Assorted Carpets; Assorted Jewelry and Wristwatches; Assorted Used Cellphones; Compact Discs/VHS Tapes; Pearl Beads; Assorted Brass Vases; Assorted Underwear and Aircon Blower.

2. Viewing of jewelry and wristwatches will be on **February 12 & 13, 2001** at the Collection Division, 2nd Floor Customs Building, MIA Rd., Pasay City.

   For particulars, please contact the office of the Chief, ACDD with Telephone No. 854-31-01 or 8771-109 loc. 4150.

February 8, 2001

(Sgd.) **CELSO P. TEMPLO**
District Collector

(PDI--Feb. 11, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MA. FATIMA ARMAMENTO ALARCON

This is to inform the public that **Mrs. Alarcon** of Sariaya, Quezon is no longer connected with the following establishments as of **January 19, 2001.**

COTTA REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT CORP. AND MP VENTURES INC.

Any transaction beyond that date entered into by **Mrs. Alarcon** shall no longer be honored by the company.

(PDI – Feb. 11 & 12, 2001)

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

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(National Edition)

Box Ad - P230.00/col. cm.
Line Ad - P 65.00/line
Obituaries- P230.00/col. cm.

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(Metro Manila Edition)

Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.

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PET VACCINATION WARNING !!!

Improper vaccination may endanger animal and human lives (e.g. rabies, leptospirosis).
Vaccines require careful storage and handling (2-8° C) to ensure efficacy.
Thus, vaccinations must be done only by licensed veterinarians.

Be sure, be safe – look for the veterinarian's PRC no. on the certificate of vaccination when buying a pet dog or cat.

Pfizer is issuing this warning against vaccinations by non-veterinarians as violation of the following:

R.A. 1071: "...unlawful for any agency or store to sell veterinary biologics ... to the public ...other than ...registered drugstores...veterinary clinics..."

R.A. 382: "No person shall practice veterinary medicine ... without a valid and existing license to do so."

R.A. 8485: "Animal Welfare Act – unlawful to...neglect to provide... adequate care...maltreat or use in ...experiments..."

Contact the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) 928-2837; 924-7951 & 924-7954 & Pfizer Inc. 888-6001 loc. 572 for any information on the unauthorized selling, use & administration of Pfizer vaccines on dogs & cats.

Offenders will be prosecuted!

Pfizer Animal Health
Makers of Vanguard & Defensor Vaccines

GET YOUR VACCINES ONLY FROM LICENSED VETERINARIANS !

Sweet Nothings

This Valentine season, tell the world how much that special someone means to you—by writing that heartfelt love note in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the Philippines. The INQUIRER now accepts personal ads for the Feb. 14- issue dedicated especially to those you hold dearest to your heart, at a discounted rate of
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Visit or call any Inquirer Classified Ads branch now for more details.

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Atrium of Makati - 811-4361 / 811-4370
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Duty Free Philippines, a division of the Philippine Tourism Authority is inviting interested buyers to bid for the sale of the following unservicable properties as follows on **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS-BASIS"**.

7 SETS ALENAIRE ACCU/AHU (3 SINGLE CIRCUIT AND 4 DOUBLE CIRCUIT)

Air Handling Units
Capacity : 30 TR
Motor : 7.5HP, 220V, 3 Phase, 60Hz
FLA : 20A

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Condenser Motor : 2-3 HP
Compressor Motor : 2-15 TR, 220V, 3 Phase, 60Hz

2 units CATERPILLAR Diesel Generator
Model : 3412
Rating : 750KVA, 220V, 3 Phase, 60Hz
Speed : 1800rpm
Operating Hours : 91 Hours

All interested parties may secure pre-qualification form for a non-purchasing fee of **ONE HUNDRED PESOS (P100.00)** on **February 12-14, 2001** from the Purchasing Department, Duty Free Philippines, New Fiestamall, Columbia Center, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City. Submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification form will be until **February 19, 2001.** All pre-qualified contractors shall be informed on the pre-bidding conference schedule and site inspection.

Bidders will be required to post a bid bond equivalent to Ten Percent (10%) of the total contract price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check.

Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuses to accept his award. Further, DFP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids or any part thereof, waive any defects contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOEL R. PEREZ**
Chairman
Disposal Committee

(PDI - Feb 9 10 & 11 2001)

INQUIRER TRiVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Question mark

Q. How did '?' come to symbolize a question?

A. The modern system of punctuation derives from classical Greek and Latin, where its main purpose was not to aid comprehension but to guide those reading aloud. Different marks showed the reader how to stress syllables, and where to pause and draw breath to maintain meter in a line of poetry. In Latin, a question was indicated by the word *questio* ('to ask') placed at the end of the sentence. The burden of handwriting books was made easier by abbreviating many words, and *questio* was shortened to QO. But since QO could be mistaken for other abbreviations, scribes began to place the Q above the O. Before long, the Q shrunk into a squiggle, the O became a dot and thus was born '?'.

For the Record. *Ampersand* is the name of the symbol '&,' meaning 'and.' This sign once followed the alphabet in children's learning books. Children would recite the name of the letters of the alphabet and then, to describe '&,' would say, 'and per se and,' per se being Latin for 'by itself.' In time and per se evolved to the present-day ampersand.

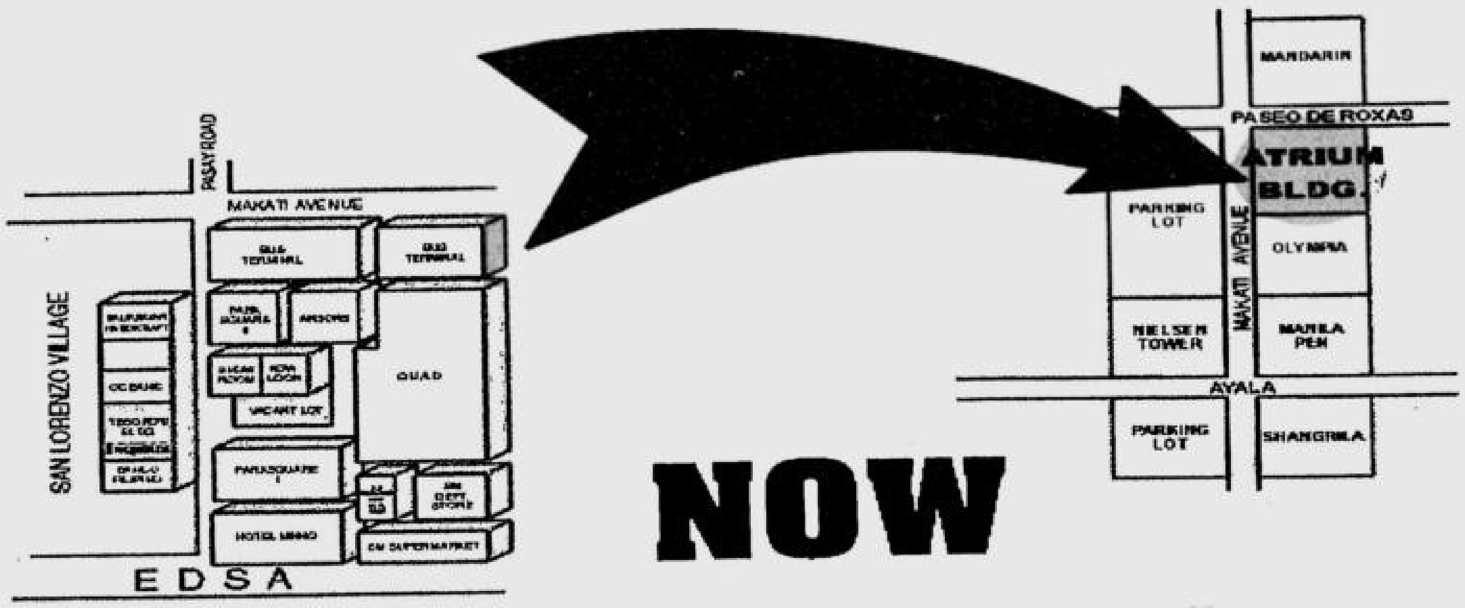
Past Forward. This day in 1858: Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old French peasant girl, claimed to have had visions of the Virgin Mary near Lourdes in southwest France. She said she had seen the Mother of Christ 18 times in a grotto in the foothills of the Pyrenees. The Pope expressed interest in the authenticity of the visions, and emissaries from the Vatican traveled to Lourdes to investigate. Large numbers of believers hastened to the site, where a spring of water was reputed to have healing powers.

WORD WATCH

Miracle (mir'uh k'l) : from the Latin *miraculum*, 'to wonder at.'

PDI – February 11, 2001

Inquirer's Makati Branch



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ENGR. JOSELITO SILO DEL VILLAR, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 7, 2001 at the age of 54.

His bereaved wife **Myrna**; children **Jomer** and **Elenita**, **Joseph** and **Erlinda**, **Paul Jerome** (†), **Stewart** and **Ammie Lorena**, **Myra Evelyn** and **Florence**, **Joselito, Jr.** and **Adriane Wilson**; brothers **Manuel**, **Pablito**, **Roberto**; and sister **Ederline**; sisters and brothers-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 11, 2001, 10:00 AM at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Evergreen MEMORIAL GARDEN, INC. PASIG
Located near Valle Verde, Greenhills, Greenmeadows, Corinthian, Wack-Wack, Acropolis, Capitol 8, Greenwoods and Parkwoods
The one-stop, one-of a-kind memorial park features
LOW DOWN-PAYMENT
• EASY INSTALLMENT PLAN

ARLINGTON EAST
The Garden Chapels
at CAPILLA SAN AEMILIANI
-NO MORE LONG PROCESSION-
C. Raymundo Ave., cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City
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III. Gregorio A. de Chavez Sr., 33° IGH, PM, PDDGM

Past Master, Batangas Lodge No. 35 F & AM
Past Venerable Master, Batangas Bodies A & ASR
Past District Deputy Grand Master, Masonic District No. (28) 10
Founder & President, Chavez Pharmacy Corporation, Batangas City

Born May 9, 1928, laid down working tools February 8, 2001.

His loving children **Junior & Aning**, **Galou**, **Glecy & Nilo**, **Jojo & Aira**; grandchildren Niño, Annabrea, Noreen, Nikki **Arabelle**, **John Karsten & Sophia Amabelle**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Mary Euphrasia Parish Church Mortuary, De Joya Village, Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City.

Interment will be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved Mamang

VICTORINA C. BRILLANTE

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 10, 2001 at the age of 90.

Her late husband **Pedro N. Brillante** (✝); loving children and in-laws **Vicente** and **Severa**, **Pedro** (✝) and **Marly**, **Teresita** and **Frank** (✝), **Cesar** and **Nita**, **Ligaya**, **Bayani** and **Susie**, **Lorna**, **Minda** and **Vic**, **Agnes** and **Butch**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 14, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

TOMAS MASANKAY DE GUZMAN

of Bauang, La Union

has joined the company of his Creator on February 10, 2001

His bereaved wife **Luz**; children **Prudencio** (†), **Tomas, Jr.** and **Ma. Lourdes**, **Edward** and **Guia**, **Paul** and **Leticia**, **Martin** and **Christine**, **Luz Lourdes**, **Dominique** and **Isabelita**, **Eric** and **Felicia**, **Stephen** and **Robyn**, **Caesar** and **Heidi**; brothers **Clarence**, **Romeo** (†), **Antonio** and **Joselito**; grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK PARAÑAQUE
Wishes to announce its promo for
FAMILY ESTATES & MEMORIAL COURTS
15% downpayment, 0% interest 1 year to pay.
Also available premium lawn lots
Please call Gilbert or Tina
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Thanks from the Heart

for the silence shared,
for the comforting words,
for the consoling embrace,
for the flowers and prayers,
for the countless ways love expressed for

our dearest Mama

Aurora Alegre Jonson

September 10, 1917 - February 4, 2001

From her loving children and in-laws **Aurora Fe** and **Bob** (✝), **Boyet** (✝) and **Marivic**, **Azon**, **Lilia** and **Ernie**, **Mona** and **Phil**, **Toto**, **Aida** and **Law**, **Cea** and **Bebo**, **Seny**; grandchildren **Chris** and **Yazzy**, **Patricia**, **Joe**, **Karina**, **Nap**, **Ching** and **Dhes**, **Ana Marie** and **Noli**, **Rene** and **Leda**, **Badette** and **Jaime**, **Pauline**, **Russell**, **Ryan** and **Dani**, **Lilia**, **Bonbon** and **Gigi**, **Celeste** and **Jerome**, **Ian**, **Guia**, **Jayjay**, **Brian**, **Nini**, **Charm**, **Jhong**, **Tintin**, **Tino**, **Joy**; and great grandchidren.

WHAT IS DYING?... A ship sails and I stand watching till she fades on the horizon and someone at my side says, "She is gone". Gone where? Gone from my side, that is all, she is just as large as when I saw her. The diminished size, and the total loss of sight is in me, not in her, and just at the moment when someone at my side says, "She is gone", there are others who are watching her coming, and other voices take up a glad shout. "There she comes!"... AND THAT IS DYING.
By Victor Hugo from Toilers of the Sea, RETREAT

In Loving Memory
on the 1st Death Anniversary of

CECILIA S. LAZO

May 20, 1932 - February 11, 2000

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches on February 11, 2001:

National Shrine of the Sacred Heart *Dao St., San Antonio Village, Makati*	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church *Philamlife Village, Las Piñas*	6:00 a.m.
Parish Church of the Resurrection *BF Homes, Parañaque*	6:30 a.m.
Church of the Presentation of the Child Jesus *BF Homes, Parañaque*	7:30 a.m.
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish *Hillsborough Village, Muntinlupa*	8:30 a.m.
Christ the King Church *Pleasant Hill, California*	10:00 a.m.
St. Gabriel Church *San Francisco, California*	11:30 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary De Ligouri Church *Magallanes Village, Makati*	12:00 nn
St. Jerome Parish Church *Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa*	6:00 p.m.
St. James Parish Church *Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa*	6:00 p.m.
St. Benedict College Chapel Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa	6:30 p.m.

Her husband **SENNEN**; children **TESS** and **REY**, **TONY (BOY)** and **MARIE**, and B; grandchildren **CORRINE**, **GPAUL**, **RVIC**, **RYAN** and **CAILA**; **JOSEPH**, **ALLAN** and **JENNY**; extend their sincerest thanks to all those who continue to remember her and include her in their prayers.

> We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.
>
> *2 Cor. 4:14*

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P2.6M FA120sqm 2BR 3TB, Maids Rm., phone, garage. Cash or terms. Karen 8095738/8095739

QUEZON CITY

Cubao CondoP1.3M EZterm 9126976/9132224/4381480

120sqm 2Flrs Basement 17 Gcypress Vill QC 9979663

4Dr Apt. Nr. Sm FV QC 2892895

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Nova P5T/mo.10yrs 9390299

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WEST AVENUE walking distance to Quezon Ave. & Del Monte Ave. 3BR w/attic basement, concrete P2.8M T- 9131737/9215033

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- FANTASTIC VIEW
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7235808 / 7270181

SAN JUAN

LPL Ghills 52m² P3.3M 8316785

PROVINCIAL

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OTHER AREAS

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Sta.Crz Lag 3h P150/m² 0437780373

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

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MAKATI

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2br T&B 2272CMayon5637918

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2BR w/ tel. & grge. P7500 504 Katarungan Call 5613935

QUEZON CITY

2BR2TB Priv Grge 160C Sct Limbaga Ext 8.0T/mo 926-1748

SAN JUAN

2BR up 1car P7T 744-3465

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BFRESORT 3BR 20T 8728320

MAKATI

MAGA 4BR (0918)9106036 P40T

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MAKATI

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2BR CONDO furnished w/parking A/C, Tel, H2O Heater, 18Th 897-8695

BSA Twr/Suites 1br FF tel/pkg 646-8037/95

•Legaspi 3BR F/F T8509118•

2BR nr Rockwell 9125847

MANILA

1BR 2TB Prkng Tel Nr La Salle St Scho Call 4009407

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Ortigas Cntr 1br Unfurn 2br Furn 433-7159 / 0919-2099420

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CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

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HONDA

'96 CIVIC VTI-MT Loaded Well-Maintained P350K Call 8509327 0918-9118485

KIA

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MAZDA

96 Mazda 626 A/T White 235T Neg Tel#897-9231 to 46 Loc. 1130 or 1114

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95 VITARA Sidekick Look 77Tkms 350T neg #5616929

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78Corona FLD 50T 7145514

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NKR NPR Canter Carry FB Porter Lite-T-Ace Bongo Dump Mixer Cargo A. Van 4-6-10w 9126976; 9120647

Truck Isuzu Forward 6BGI w /Sidings P400T 5329257

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Wanted Company/Family Driver Send resume to: PO Box 4710 MCPO, Makati City 1287

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OfcPerson'l 9134470 Jenny

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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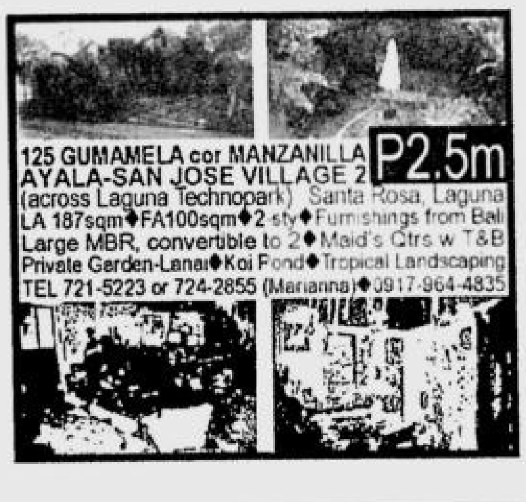

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Antonio T. Nepomuceno was judicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 476; Page No. 96; Book No. 450; Series of 2001 by Atty. Joel G. Gordola of QC (PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 2001)

Notice that the estate of the late Ma. Trinidad T. Diaz was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc.#305; Page#61; Book I; Series of 2001 of Atty. Joel T. Pelicano of Pasig City (PDI-2/4, 11, 18, 2001)

PERSONAL

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your Mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank You Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen (This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.) AAB

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER

O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, mani-fested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

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RESIDENTIAL	MINIMUM BID
MAKATI	
1) Res'l/ Condo. / 25th Bldg. Unit 2544, 4th Floor, Guadalupe Mansion, JP Rizal Extension, Guadalupe FA - 67.2	800,000
QUEZON CITY	
2) Res'l.T'house / 2 sty, 2BR, 2TB Unit 14F Paraluman Thomes, Isidora Hills Subd. LA – 40 FA – 55 sqm	1,100,000
3) Res'l. T'house. / 3-sty, 3BR, 4 TB, w/ garage & terrace / Unit 65D Whole Asia Thouse, Mapang-akit Street Brgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City LA – 61 FA – 139 sqm.	3,151,000
4) Res'l. Lot. / Blk. 4 Lot 6 Adrian Street, North Fairview, Q.C. LA – 300 sqm.	1,803,000
5) Res'l. Lot. / Blk. 4 Lot 8 Adrian Street, North Fairview, Q.C. LA – 300 sqm.	1,803,000
6) Res'l. H&L. 6BR, 2TB / Lot 5-7 Agnes St, Ideal Subd, Capitol Dist, Bgy. C'wealth LA – 307 FA-381.46	3,031,000
7) Res'l Townhouse. 2-sty, 3BR, 3TB w/ attic. Unit-F, Fairview Mansion, Carmel Street, East Fairview Subdivision Quezon City LA - 55.2 FA –119 sqm.	1,880,000
8) Res'l H&L- 2 sty, 3 BR, 2 TB w/ garage & attic / L3 B5, Waling-waling St., Nomar II Subdivision, Bo. San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City LA – 240 FA-224.05 sqm.	2,940,000
9) Res'l Thouse. 2-sty, 2 BR, 2 TB w/ terrace & garage / Unit 1-E, Don Damaso Townhomes, Don Antonio Heights Subdivision Quezon City LA-34.6 FA- 55.29 sqm.	1,100,000
10) Res'l Thouse / 2 Sty., 2BR & 1TB w/ parking / Unit 24-D Gloria II, Don Antonio Heights LA - 36.9 FA - 49	792,000
PASIG	
11) Res. Thouses - 7 units, 2sty, w/ attic No. 14 Main St., Romeo-Marietta Village TLA – 342 TFA-658.22	6,000,000
LAS PIÑAS	
12) Res'l. H & L. 1 sty w/ 3 BR & 2 TB / L5 B11, Pedro T. Sabido Street, Vista Grande, BF Resort Village, Pamplona LA – 204 FA –139 sqm.	1,610,000
13) Res'l. Lot. Lot 15 Blk 14 Diamond St. Las Pinas Royale 1, Pulang Lupa, Las Pinas LA –198 sqm.	655,000
14) Res'l. Thouse. 2-sty. 2 BR, 1 TB / Unit – D Aranda Compound, Talon Uno, Las Pinas LA - 37 sqm.	540,000
15) Res'l. Thouse. 2-sty. 2 BR, 1 TB / Unit – E Aranda Compound, Talon Uno, Las Pinas LA – 37 sqm.	540,000
16) Res'l. Thouse. 2-sty. 2 BR, 1 TB / Unit – K Aranda Compound, Talon Uno, Las Pinas LA - 37 sqm.	540,000
17) Res'l. Thouse. 2-sty. 2 BR, 1 TB / Unit – M Aranda Compound, Talon Uno, Las Pinas LA - 37 sqm.	540,000
18) Res'l. Thouse. 2-sty. 2 BR, 1 TB / Unit – O Aranda Compound, Talon Uno, Las Pinas LA - 37 sqm.	540,000
19) Res'l. Thouse. 2-sty. 2 BR, 1 TB / Unit – P Aranda Compound, Talon Uno, Las Pinas LA - 37 sqm.	540,000
PARANAQUE	
20) Res'l. H & L - 1sty, 2 BR 1 TB, w/ maid's quarter and garage / Lot 2D Blk 12, Capernaum Street, Muntinational Village LA – 142 FA-56.10 sqm.	1,100,000
MUNTINLUPA	
21) Res'l. H & L - 1 sty, 2 BR, 1 TB / Lot 68 Blk 5 Sierra Grande St., Camella Homes 4, Alabang Thomes, Putatan, Muntinlupa City LA – 155 FA – 42 sqm.	450,000
22) WITHDRAWN	3,293,000
CAINTA	
23) Res. Thouse. - 3 BR, 2 TB, w/ attic Lot 6-C Blk 3, 3rd Street, Gruar Subd. LA – 97 FA – 105 sqm.	900,000
CAVITE	
24) Res'l. Rowhouse. 1BR, 1TB / Lot 36 Blk. 14, Palmetto St., Wood Estate Village II, Molino 3, Bacoor, Cavite LA –35 FA – 22 sqm.	260,000
25) Res'l. Rowhouse. 1BR, 1TB / Lot 20 Blk 2 Regatta West Subd., Bo. Bukandala, Imus, Cavite LA – 51 FA - 36	361,000
26) Res'l. T'house. 2sty, 2 BR, 2 TB / Unit 2, L2 B23, Alicante Street, Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite LA – 56 FA-67.57 sqm.	840,000
27) Res'l. T'house. 2sty, 2 BR, 2 TB / Unit 4, L4 B23, Alicante Street, Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite LA – 56 FA-67.57 sqm.	840,000
28) Res'l. T'house. 2sty, 2 BR, 2 TB / Unit 5, L5 B23, Alicante Street, Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite LA – 56 FA-67.57 sqm.	840,000
29) Res'l. T'house. 2sty, 2 BR, 2 TB / Unit 6, L6 B23, Alicante Street, Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite LA – 56 FA-67.57 sqm.	840,000
30) Res'l. T'house. 2sty, 2 BR, 2 TB / Unit 7, L7 B23, Alicante Street, Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite LA – 56 FA-67.57 sqm.	840,000
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31) Res'l Lot. Lot 79 Blk. 38, Forest Hills Subd., San Isidro LA – 523 sqm.	1,340,000
32) Res. Lot - L6 B4 Mission Hills Blvd, Sta. Barbara 1, Luxury Estate, Mission Hills LA-1,062 sqm.	3,800,000
33) Res. Lot - Lot 17 Blk 1 Bevelry St., Sta. Barbara 1, Luxury Estate, Mission Hills LA-1,021 sqm.	3,660,000
BAGUIO	
34) Res'l. Lot / Lot 9 Blk. 10 Richgate Square II Subd., Camp 7 Kennon Road LA – 360 sqm.	945,000
35) Res'l. Lot / Lot 13 Blk. 10 Richgate Square II Subd., Camp 7 Kennon Road LA – 386 sqm.	1,010,000
COMMERCIAL	
QUEZON CITY	
36) Comm'l / Res. Lot - Lot 9 Arty Road corner Mindanao Avenue, Talipapa, Tandang Sora LA-440 sqm.	8,000,000
MANILA	
37) Comm'l space (Entire 2/F) / KP Tower, C.M. Recto corner J. Luna Street Binondo FA-658 sqm.	28,800,000
MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN	
38) Com'l / Ind'l Lots - (9 Lots) Lots 1-B-6-A to 1-B-6-G, Lot 1-B-1-B, Lot 1-B-5, Brgy., Bahay Pare and Bagbaguin, Meycauayan, Bulacan TLA-9,975 sqm.	30,000,000

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BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

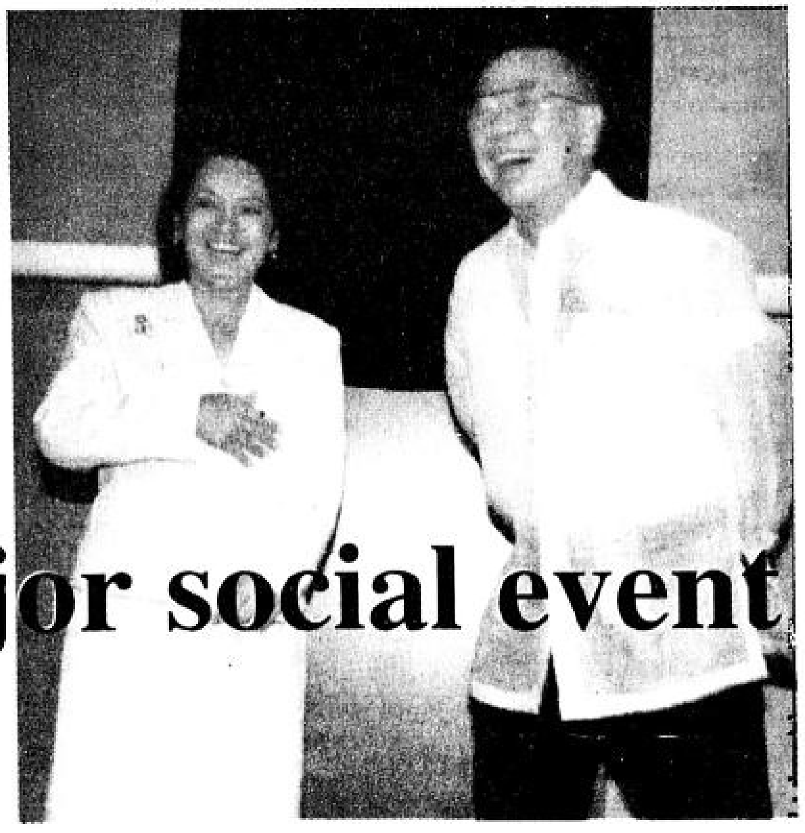
FEDERATION of Philippine Industries head Raul T. Concepcion.

ALBERTO Romulo in one of his first public appearances as new finance secretary.

Hector Villanueva in a thoughtful mood.

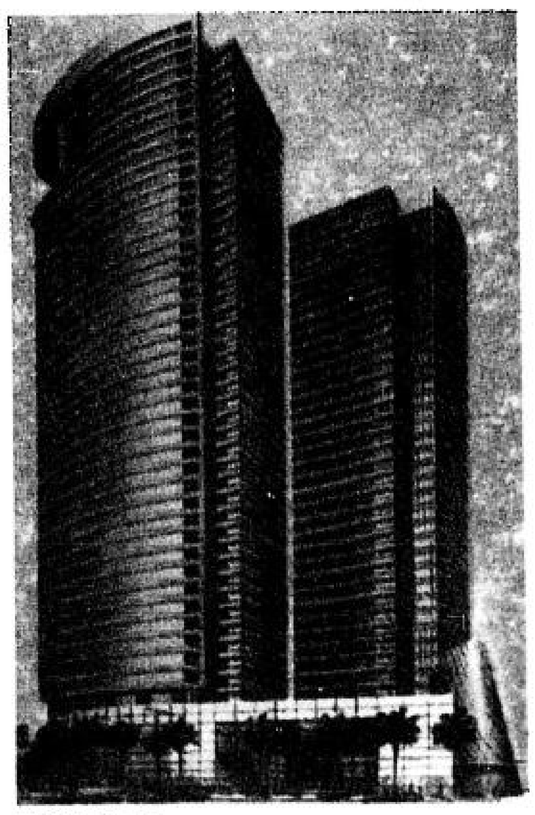
FORMER Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Gabriel C. Singson took the time off to meet with old friends and colleagues.

PHOTOS BY
BETOY JOHNSON



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo shares a light moment with Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco.

All came to business' first major social event



RCBC Plaza

ARCHBISHOP of Manila Jaime Cardinal Sin takes time off to attend the event.

THE OUSTER of President Estrada became a mini-nightmare for the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

Last January, the bank sent out invitations for the inauguration of its multi-billion peso RCBC Plaza along Ayala Avenue with Estrada's name stated as the guest of honor.

Two weeks before the event held on Feb. 5, the country had a new president. The bank hurriedly sent out invitations with the guest of honor changed. Lucky for them the earlier choice for the most important guest did not show up. Whether they informed Estrada or not, is a question mark.

Luckier still is that it was a very opportune time to hold a grand affair as the business community was still euphoric over the People Power II revolution that catapulted Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency, and they came in full force to celebrate.

Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco, head of the Yuchengco group of companies which owns RCBC, was the gracious host.

He and President Macapagal unveiled the marker which states that the RCBC group was dedicating the RCBC Plaza to the Filipino.

The RCBC Plaza, he said, will hopefully become one of the landmark addresses in the Makati financial district.

Of course any big thing is not always without controversy. The Plaza is classified as an IT park, which means firms locating in the building will enjoy certain tax incentives.

This was granted by Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas. The move, however, has raised some eyebrows—why grant a building such a status traditionally granted to parks? Critics ask: Is that the only way for the new structure to attract tenants? For that matter, won't all buildings try to seek such a status to attract locators?

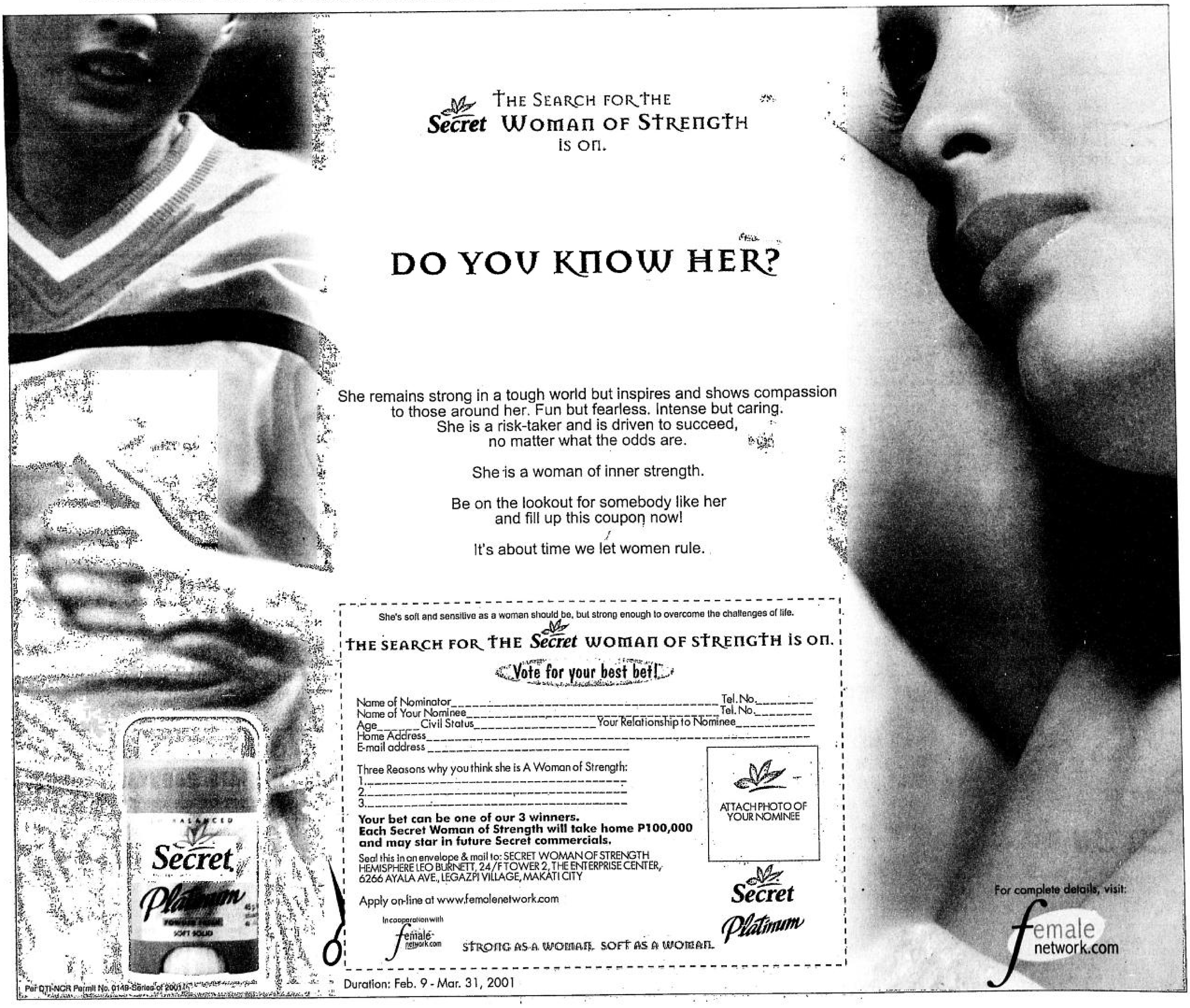
PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco unveil the marker which states RCBC Plaza is "A Legacy of Excellence."

THE ZOBEL brothers Jaime Augusto and Fernando in an animated discussion with Cesar Buenaventura of the Buenaventura, Filamor, Echauz consulting firm.

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II in a huddle with former President Fidel V. Ramos.

DON Jorge Araneta, patriarch of the Araneta family, and his wife Stella Marquez-Araneta are among the who's who in the business community who joined the celebration.

FR. JAMES Reuter is accompanied by Cesar V. Purissima.



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Lost-and-found love

She lost her wallet to a pickpocket but found love in the process

HEART TO HEART. Cesar de la Cruz and Chari Capili PHOTOS: ERNIE SARMIENTO

By Alex Y. Vergara

TAKE it from Julia Fordham, this couple's favorite singer: Love moves in mysterious ways. Chari Capili lost a wallet but gained a boyfriend and, God willing, a lifetime partner in Cesar de la Cruz.

"Very few people know our story," Chari begins. "Not even our parents know how we met. We sometimes brush it aside or come up with a short, standard answer. It's about time they know."

Chari still recalls that fateful day in 1992 when she and several officemates went malling. It was June 12, Independence Day, but Chari, then fresh from the University of Santo Tomas, had gone to work earlier despite the holiday to please her boss.

Before the evening was over, she learned her "precious" wallet was missing. A pickpocket, no doubt, ran away with her money, driver's license and snapshots of her college friends.

"I only had around P60," says the fine arts graduate who now works as merchandising manager of Buffalo jeans, "but I considered it [wallet] priceless because it contained my friends' pictures and fond memories of school."

And revealing information as well. The wallet also contained Chari's graduation picture, home address and telephone number. Before long, male strangers began calling her house telling Chari they found her wallet in a trash bin outside the mall.

"I wanted to get all the pictures back, but I never mustered enough courage to ask for them," she says. "My God, these guys know where I live. What if they were thieves or kidnappers? I became so paranoid, I didn't entertain any of their calls."

Just when Chari had given up hope of ever getting anything back, a guy called her up more than a year later with fresh news about her lost wallet. To this day, she can't fully explain what made her entertain an unknown caller. The guy with a booming, uneven voice turned out to be Cesar.

"Well, he seemed okay on the phone except for his voice," Chari says. "I tried to convince him to leave my wallet at the nearest police station so I could pick it up, but it turned out that he didn't have it."

After Chari and her friends' pictures were distributed, they passed through several hands until one of them ended up with Cesar. No, it wasn't Chari's photo but that of her friend Carla.

Cesar got Chari's number from his friend named Rex, but he had no idea what his future girlfriend looked like. For someone who rarely talks on the telephone, Cesar found himself insisting on getting Carla's number. Their rambling conversation lasted for almost an hour. Despite his persistence, however, Chari stood her ground.

Ugly voice

"Why should I give my friend's number to a stranger?" Chari reasoned. "Especially to someone with a most ugly voice."

To reassure Chari, Cesar told her about himself. He also gave her his telephone number. The occasion also allowed him to brag a little if only to convince the woman on the other line of his true intentions. Soon enough, Chari was bowled over by the stranger's great sense of humor.

"I told her not to mind my voice," Cesar beams. "I'm not fond of making *telebabad* because of it, but I told her I'm really trustworthy and handsome in person."

"You see what a braggart he is," Chari chimes in. "That initial call started it all. Since then, he began calling me at home after work. I never called him back, of course. *Dalagang* Filipina, *eh.*"

Their conversations lasted for hours. There was even a time, Cesar recalls, when they talked from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following day. Since the room he was renting near his place of work in Cubao didn't have a telephone, Cesar had to go home every night to his family in Caloocan to call his newfound phone pal who lives in nearby Valenzuela.

Of course, the missing wallet and its contents became a useful icebreaker. Their talks eventually revolved around themselves and their plans for the future. Chari always ended up laughing at Cesar's jokes, while Cesar became more fascinated with Chari's warm voice and infectious

LOST-AND-FOUND/ p.C4

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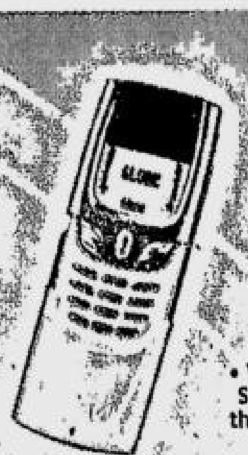

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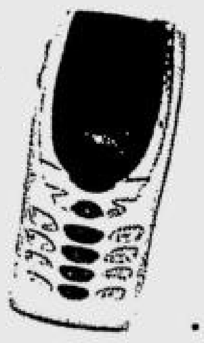

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Siemens S40	15,000	13,000		13,000	10,000	7,000	13,000	11,000	9,000	7,000
Nokia 3310	6,000	4,000		4,000	1,000	FREE	4,000	2,000	FREE	FREE
Philips Azalis	5,000	3,000		3,000	FREE	FREE	3,000	1,000	FREE	FREE
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Lost-and-found love

(From page C1)

laughter.

"She can be *malambing* one minute and *mataray* the next," says Cesar.

After a week burning the lines, Cesar insisted that they finally meet. Chari was initially cool to the idea so Cesar had to come up with a good reason to make her agree. He promised her he would track her wallet and all its contents.

Although Chari eventually agreed, she remained cautious to the very end. She asked Cesar to meet her at the office, not at the mall. When the big day finally came, Chari didn't go down at once to the lobby. Instead, she asked an officemate to first size Cesar up. The friend came rushing back to Chari with good news: he's a beautiful stranger!

Well, not to Chari. She went for well-dressed and clean-cut men like Aga Muhlach. What she saw that day was the exact opposite—a tall, dark guy in loose, hip-hop clothes. The feeling was mutual. Cesar prefers tall *mestizas* to petite *morenas*. When the lanky Cesar stood up, Chari barely reached his shoulder.

"But there's something about Chari that makes her so lovable," he says. "I instantly felt comfortable with her."

"I saw pictures of his ex-girlfriends much later, and I didn't seem to fit the mold," she adds. "Well, he didn't look bad but he just wasn't my type."

True intention

After their initial meeting, capped off by lunch at McDonald's, the two managed to keep in touch via, well, the telephone. In less than a week, Cesar mustered enough courage to reveal his true intentions. After a long pause, Chari said yes.

LOST-AND-FOUND/ p.C9

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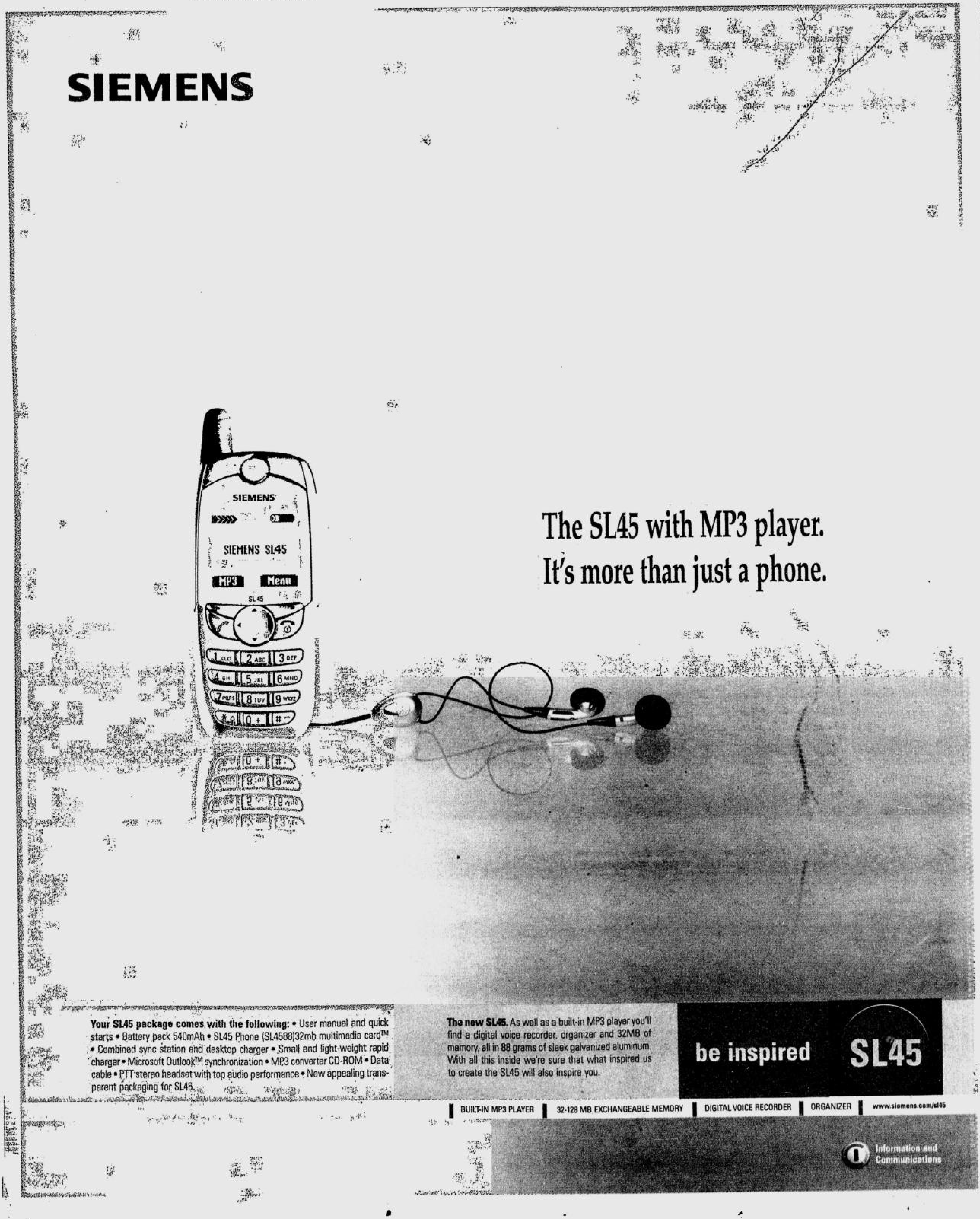

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Information and Communications

She often ends up in complicated love affairs

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

I'm 25 years old, working in one of the most prestigious software development firms in Makati as a systems engineer.

I'm no man-hater. I've had five relationships since high school but all were failures.

I'm easily attracted to men who are tough and mature, just like my fourth boyfriend Roy, my first serious relationship. He was the kind of man any woman would want to have. He was eight years my senior, very responsible, really secure and stable.

We started going steady when I was in junior college. We went steady for almost five years. Roy and I had a real good time together, we got along pretty well and, because I felt so sure about him, we unavoidably reached the peak of intimacy.

Before I graduated from college, Roy asked me to marry him but I refused. I asked him to wait for at least three more years. Since then we slowly drifted apart.

One day I received a letter from him telling me he was marrying someone he had gotten pregnant. I had no other choice I guess. I learned to live my life all over again and pick myself up from the floor.

In the summer of 1997, I met Reggie at our company's summer outing to Palawan. We had five long days together in a place that was almost paradise. He was so vocal about his admiration for me.

One night, after coming home from a party where I got really drunk, he took me home and, yes, Joe, something happened between us. He knew about Roy but I didn't mention anything about virginity.

The next morning, he was mad, saying he felt really cheated. I tried explaining I didn't have any plans of keeping the truth from him, that I was just waiting for the perfect time but he didn't listen.

He walked out on me without a word and has since stopped calling and eventually seeing me. I was devastated but I didn't run after him. I tried to be strong. I didn't even try calling or begging him to stay.

Three months later I saw him again at an employees gathering. I tried to make him feel I was okay, though deep inside I was hurting and I pitied myself.

He invited me to dinner "for old time's sake." He told me how sorry he was, that he wanted me back, so I gave him another chance. I guess I just can't say no to someone I still care for.

But, Joe, he's very different now. He hates talking about marriage. Before, when he brought me home, a goodnight kiss was enough to give him a good sleep, but now he always want us to end up in bed. I hate the thought of being used and abused but this is exactly what I'm going through.

Joe, does he really love me? Did he really accept me regardless of my past? I feel so stupid about these things. I want to break up with him and start things all over again.

My family doesn't know what has transpired in my life. I don't want to disappoint them because they have always been so proud of me. Please help me. I have prayed to God a lot of times and I know He hears me.

After Reggie, would there be another man who might just use me upon learning of my past? I'm afraid this kind of relationship might just go on in an endless circle. I'm confused.

Last week I got an e-mail from Roy saying he's separated from his wife and he has taken custody of their child because he's more financially capable. He said he still loves me more than anyone else and wants me back.

I want to accept him back but things are more complicated now. He's married and I don't want to be a mistress forever.

MITCH

Virginity has always been a sensitive issue in many relationships. There are men who still value greatly a woman's chastity and would always want to have her first.

But the sad fact is not all first relationships become our last, and many women lose their virginity to their first boyfriends. Does this mean these women are doomed to fail in their succeeding relationships?

Well, I don't think so. Many women do not end up with their first beaus but they end up with happy marriages. I believe virginity would only become an issue if there is no transparency in a relationship.

If you made a mistake in giving in to your first boyfriend, then you should have made sure your next boyfriend knew he wasn't the first. This is where many relationships have been strained—women taking the risk of not telling their boyfriends about it. Men are likely to discover it one way or another, and if you take them by surprise, they would feel cheated, get mad and get even. Then you can bid your relationship goodbye again.

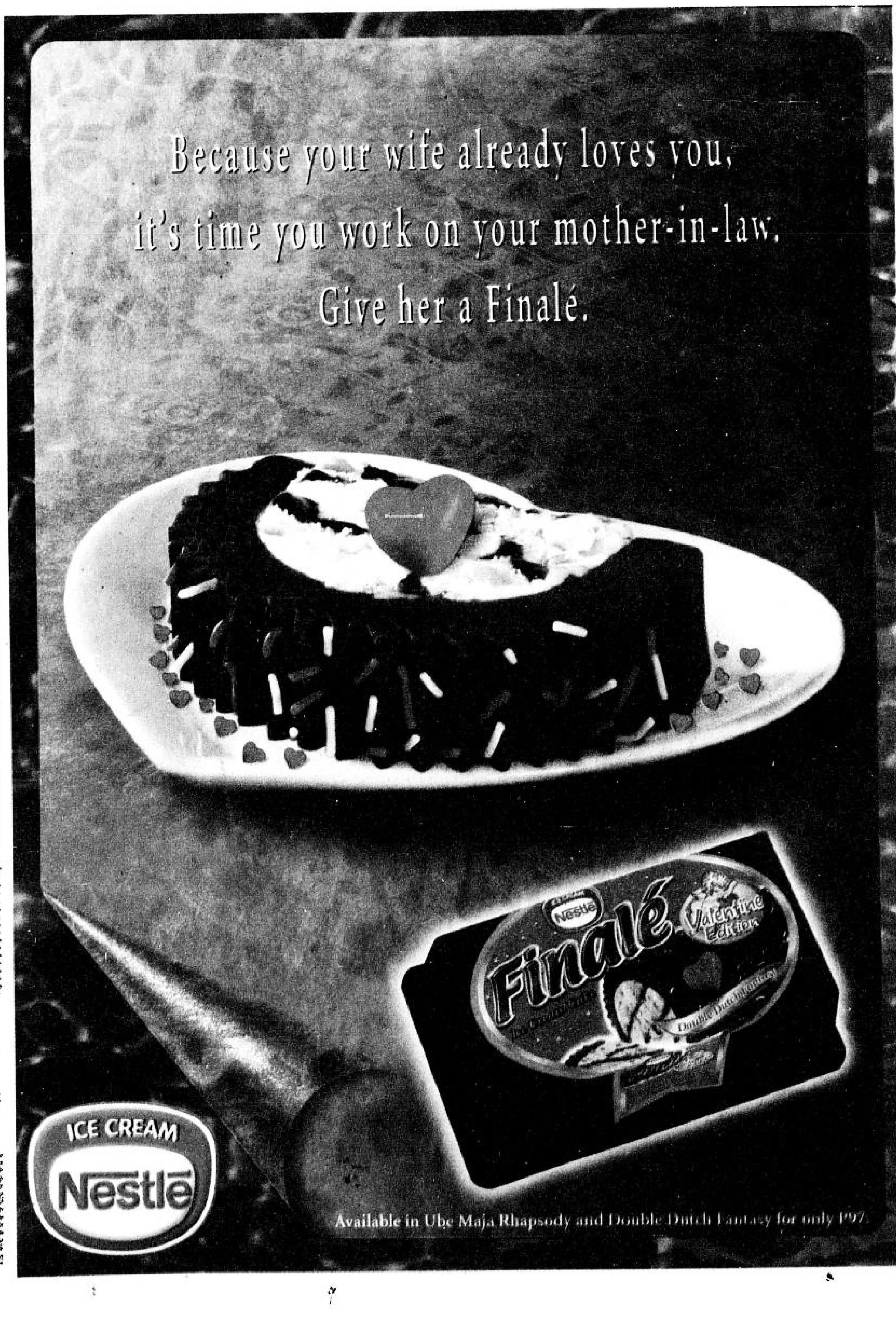
But what's done is done. No woman can go to the doctor to have her virginity stitched back. She just has to go on and find someone who would accept her and love her for what she is.

A man who loves you couldn't care less about your past, but a man who doesn't would use it to hurt you. Reggie doesn't love you, he just wants you. Don't waste your life wanting him, or you'll just end up miserable, knowing you've been used and abused by someone who has never cared about you at all.

Pray for strength so you would have enough courage to resist him, and live your life the way you should. Stop hurting yourself and don't think you'll never find someone who can embrace your past.

Give yourself a chance and you'll find the man whose love will see beyond your mistakes—the man who will understand you for all that you have been, accept you for what you have become and love you for what you truly are.

E-mail the author at lovenotes@amanet.net or send letters c/o dwTM Unit 907, Paragon Plaza, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.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From forbidden to fulfilled

By Louise Panlilio

THIS is the tale of Pat and Kat—one of forbidden love that shook the sensibilities of a small town in Laguna two decades ago.

It started off like any ordinary love story. Pat and Kat were high school classmates who became the best of friends and, years later, college sweethearts.

Like other starry-eyed teenagers, they spent most of their waking moments together, and when they weren't together they spent hours on the phone.

Then one day Kat broke the news to Pat that her parents were sending her to the United States to study. She wanted to be a doctor and her father wanted to make sure his only daughter had the best training possible.

Kat loved Pat, but she also knew she couldn't give up her golden opportunity. So they said their tearful good-byes and promised to write each other as often as they could.

The first few months they wrote each other feverishly... Kat wrote Pat about all the new sights she was seeing, all the new experiences she was having, all the new people she was meeting.

A romance that shocked a small town has survived beautifully

And one day, five months after she arrived in New York, she told Pat about a new person she had met, a classmate who reminded her of Pat. She was spending a lot of time with him, she said. And she wanted to be honest with Pat. She liked her new friend a lot.

Pat felt completely betrayed.

He stopped writing her. And he stopped reading her letters. They went straight from the mailbox to the rubbish bin.

He couldn't believe that Kat could give up their love so easily. Then again, she was the one who took her parents' offer to leave him and go to the US. She was the one who started seeing someone else. Apparently she had never really loved him as much as he loved her. And did he love her!

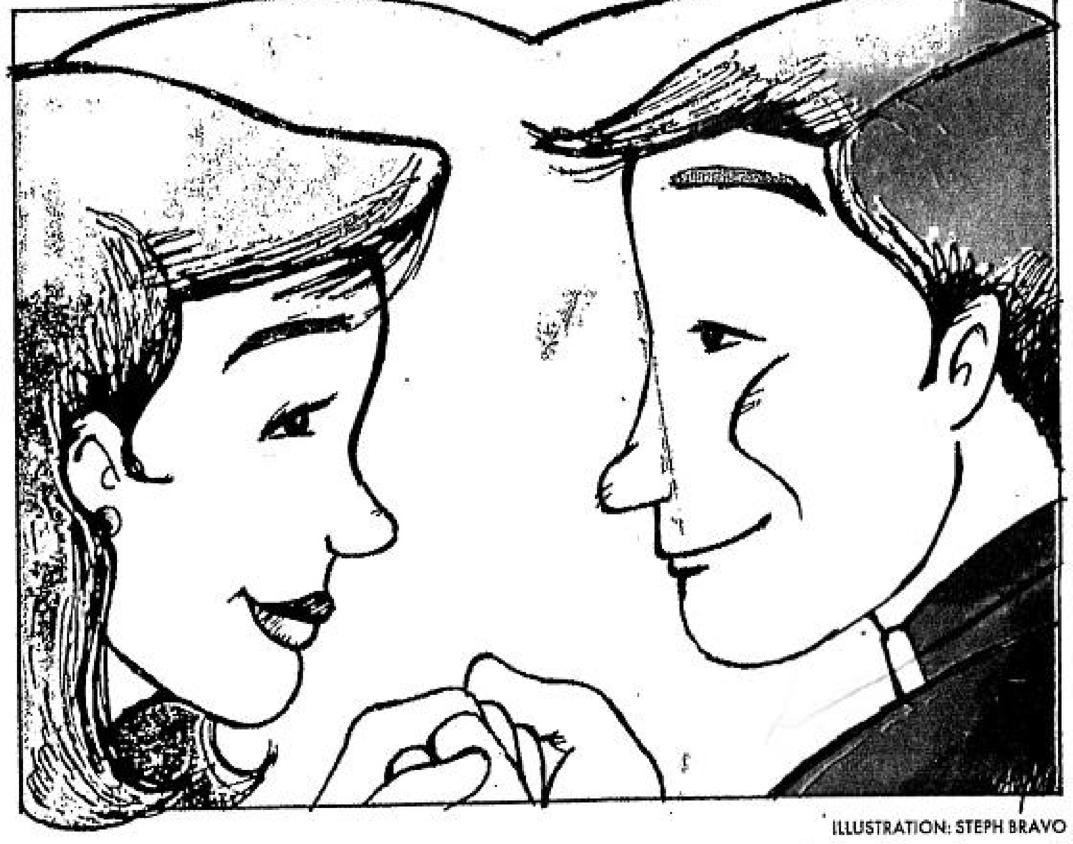

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

He couldn't remember a day when he hadn't loved her. All his life's dreams had centered around her. All the goals he had wanted to achieve were somehow related to her. How he would make a home for her. How they would raise their children together. How they would grow old together.

He knew he would never love any other woman the way he loved Kat. And he knew that without her, he would have to change his life's direction. And he did.

To lead the flock

Pat channeled all his energy, his passion and his emotions into serving the Lord. He entered the seminary and eventually forgot his past love. Close to a decade went by. He made his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Father Pat was anointed to lead the flock where he grew up, in his hometown in Laguna.

One October morning, as Father Pat was giving his Sunday sermon, his eyes were drawn to a woman sitting in the center of the first pew. Her face was so familiar, he knew he had seen her somewhere before. It was a couple of seconds before he realized it was Kat. And seeing her awakened the feelings that had been dormant for years.

But he was now a priest. His life was devoted to serving the Lord. Surely she was married by now. Surely she had children. It would be nice to catch up with her after all these years.

After Mass, Kat waited for Father Pat in church. They sat in one of the pews and talked. And talked. And talked.

Still single

Kat was now a pediatrician. She had been back in the Philippines for the past six years, but had never contacted Pat because he had never replied to any of her letters. She was setting up a clinic not too far away. And she was still single.

Pat didn't know whether to rejoice or despair. He knew even then that his feelings were very human, but they were very wrong. He knew that he should turn his back on her, walk away before it was too late.

But he couldn't. And he didn't.

They talked for many hours. And they felt they still hadn't caught up with the years they had been apart. And so they had a snack. And lunch and dinner here and there. They made excuses to each other and to themselves. It was an innocent friendship, they told their consciences, as they tried to assuage their guilt.

And they didn't stop seeing each other.

At first they tried to hide their relationship, but in a small town nothing is kept a secret for long.

Nasty whispers flew back and forth among the townspeople. The parish priest and the doctor from New York. Scandalous! What a tart! Mothers kept their daughters away from Kat. They didn't want her bad influence to rub off on them. They didn't want them consorting with the sinner.

Pat's family scorned Kat. Stay away from our brother, evil woman. Go back to New York!

Quandary

Kat's family was more accepting of the situation. They were very God-fearing and religious. but they never said anything. Not too long after the relationship was made public, though, Kat's father died. To this day she cries as she remembers how sorrowful he looked throughout the whole chain of events. She believes she was somehow responsible for her father's death, that he died of a broken heart.

Pat was in a quandary. He didn't know what to do. He knew he had pledged his life to the Lord, but he knew he could not lose Kat again. He spoke to his fellow priests and his superiors. They told him that not all men were meant to be priests. People could serve God in different ways. Pat learned that there were different ways of glorifying the Lord. He didn't have to be a priest. He could be a good husband and father. A year and a half after they found each other again, Pat was given a special dispensation by Rome.

He and Kat were married and they moved to New York, away from the wagging tongues, the hurtful memories. They crossed the seas to start a new life together.

Two decades later, they are parents to two children, a college girl and a boy in secondary school. Pat and Kat's lives revolve around their little family. Their children are their best friends. It was the kids who urged their parents to send their story to the INQUIRER.

The children love hearing their parents' love story. It's the story of their little family, the history of their lives.

So this is the tale of Pat and Kat. One of forbidden love that shook the sensibilities of a small town in Laguna two decades ago.

E-mail the author at LouisePanlilio@aol.com

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Lovebirds make perfect gift

THERE'S nothing like giving someone special the symbol of "lasting love"—those multicolored creatures called lovebirds.

Today's hobbyists and pet lovers agree that lovebirds indeed do make the perfect gift as pets. For starters, lovebirds, considered the petite, cute version of its larger cousins, the parrots, have become the millennium's "new craze," not only among hobbyists but especially among yuppies and the elderly.

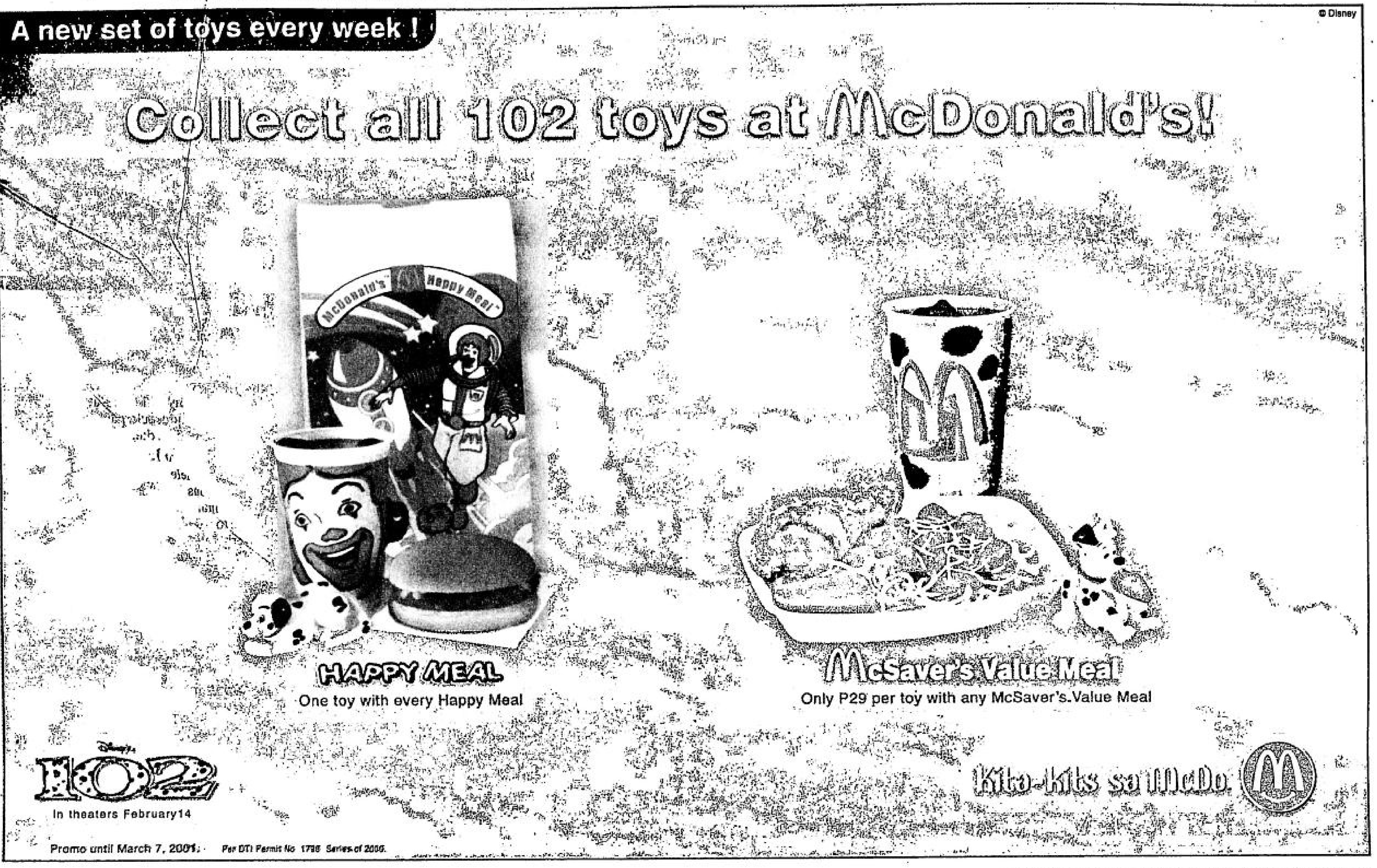
With a variety to choose from among its nine known species—Agoporis, African, Peach-faced, Black-cheeked, Black-colored, Madagascar, Nyasa, Abyssian and Red-faced—lovebirds make ideal pets as they are inquisitive and very active especially if sufficient time is devoted to them. Another wonderful aspect of this creature, is that they are reasonably long-lived for their size—10 years or more would not be unusual.

Mated pairs perch closely and preen for each other. They are believed to pair for life. This is why they are called "lovebirds," appropriately derived from two Greek words, "Agapi" meaning unconditional love and "orni" meaning birds.

Lovebirds are extremely social by nature. Many lovebird species pair for life, and the company of the mate is important in their lives. Just take a look at the behavior of a pair of lovebirds. You will see that they always sit next to each other. If one moves to a branch the other follows. They are always seen together.

The name lovebirds stems from the fact that they are very *cariñoso* or *malambing* toward each other and they are reliable breeders. The other good news for lovebird owners is that they also become a good source of added income, since they are in great demand because of their unique character as pets.

Lovebirds are available at 208 Amang Rodriguez Ave., Rosario, Pasig City. Call telfax 643-8050 or 642-6656.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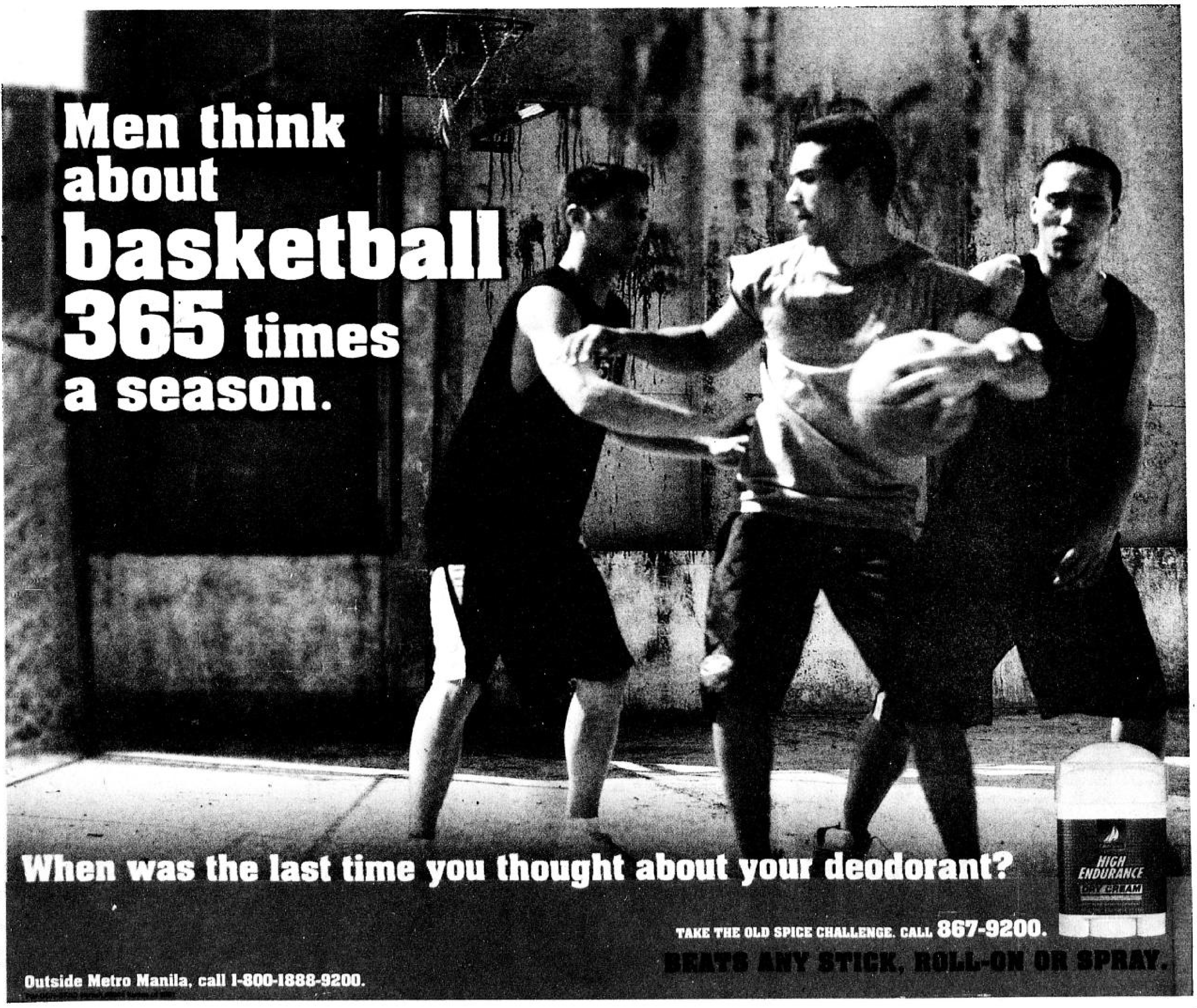
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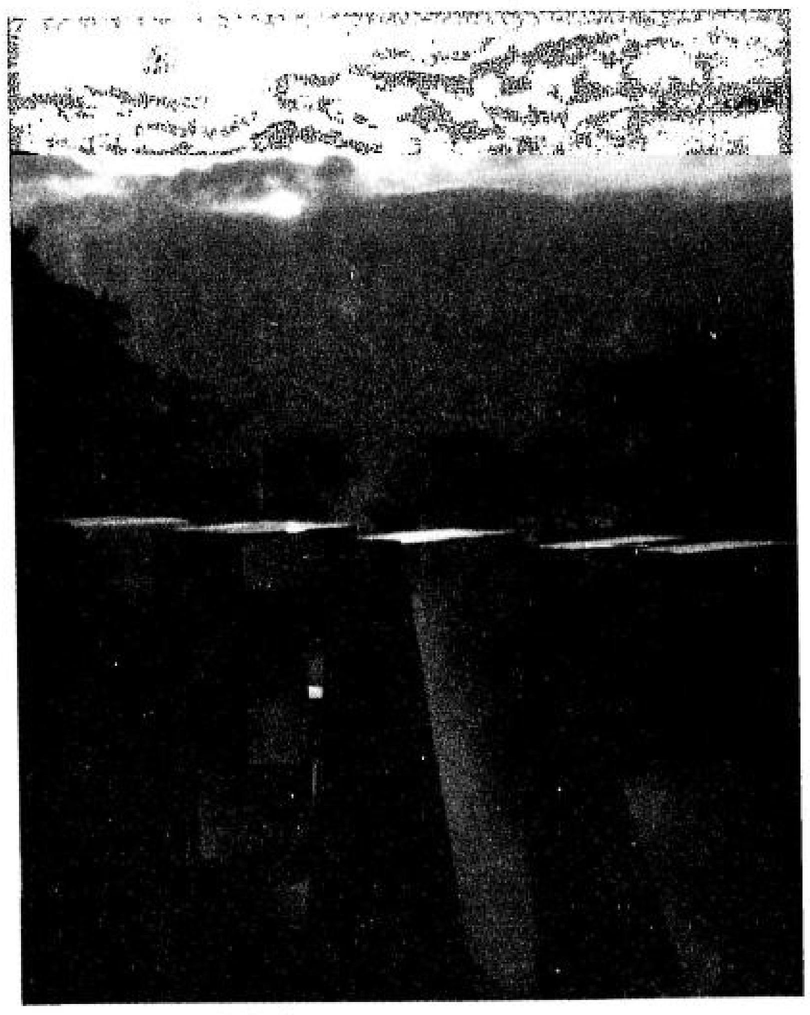
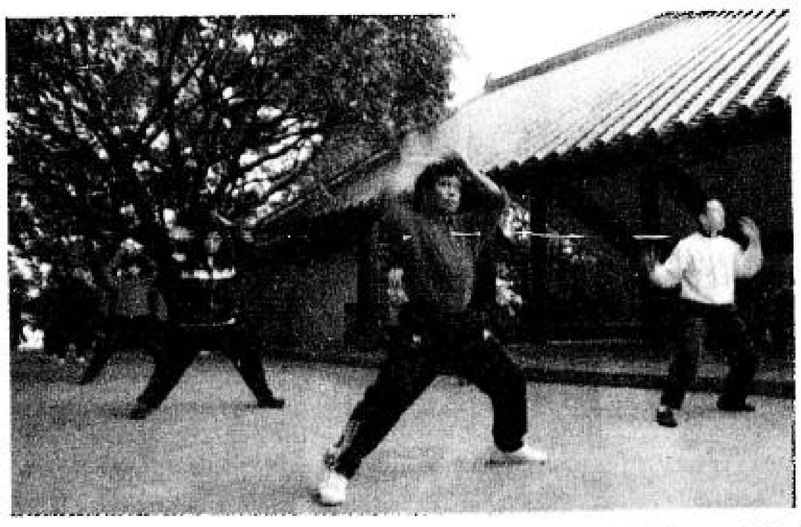

SUNSET at Victoria Peak

A NIGHT view of Central Hong Kong from Victoria Peak

Photo promo offers free Hong Kong sojourn

WELCOME TO TAI O
A VENDOR shows off a dried tiger shark in Tai O fishing village, Lan Tau island.

A VENDOR sells dried duck, pork, etc. on Phoe Huang Street, Tai Po Market in New Territory.


KUNG fu experts practice at a Kowloon park every morning.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

THE HONG Kong Tourist Association is sponsoring a photo-clipping contest. The winner will get a trip for two to Hong Kong.

The contest is open to Filipinos between 18-65 years old. The contestants can select and clip a photo about Hong Kong from this page. Then on a sheet of paper, they should write their name, address, telephone number and signature. They should also explain why the photo best depicts life in Hong Kong in not more than 50 words.

Contestants should mail their entries to: "Life is... " Photo Promo c/o Perceptions Inc., 3/F Fortune Office Building, 160 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Deadline is Feb. 16.

The 10 best entries will be selected. The best one will win a trip for two to Hong Kong with hotel accommodation for three days and two nights. The rest will receive special gifts from the Hong Kong Tourist Association.

The contest is limited to one entry per participant. Travel documents and taxes shall be paid by the winner. The trip must be taken by June 30.

ONE face of the night life at Lan Kwai

NIGHT life in Lan Kwai, Central Hong Kong

HONG Kong's singing star Jacky Cheung sings a duet with Olivia Newton-John during the Euro-Christmas opening presentation in Central Hong Kong.

YOUNG women have lunch in one of the expensive restaurants in Hong Kong.

HONG Kong police on Central Hollywood Street

AN OLD woman processes Chinese food in Tai O fishing village.

A DEVOTEE leaves the Man Mo temple, which is decorated with funnel-shaped incense, on Fu Sing Street, Tai Po, New Territory.

Lost-and-found love

(From page C4)

They met for the second time four days later, Nov. 8, 1993 to be exact, to formalize their relationship.

Cesar felt pretty sure of his feelings from the start, but not Chari. By their third meeting, however, there was magic. From then on, Chari knew she had found the right man.

"Other people may find it wenrtoo fast," says Chari. "Well maybe it did, but after seeing each other for more than seven years now, we can dare say we know enough of each other."

Her parents objected at first. Being the only girl in a brood of tree, Chari understood their reaction. Perhaps they found Cesar too easy-going for their career-driven daughter.

On the contrary, Cesar, says Chari, has been a responsible elder brother to his three younger siblings. To his credit, he took the initial cold treatment in stride. It was only a few years ago that Cesar started to win Chari's parents over, especially her dad.

"Dad and I are now close. We're now like this," says a smiling Cesar, putting his middle and index fingers together.

Instead of working against them, their differences have helped strengthen their relationship. There was a time when Chari used to make mountains out of molehills. Well not anymore. She has learned to be more optimistic, thanks to Cesar.

"I used to sulk before whenever I had a problem," she says. "Cesar taught me how to laugh and take it easy. My mom is amazed at his sense of humor. He also has no pretensions about himself. What you see is what you get."

To think that Cesar has been through a lot, having come from a broken family. Instead of feeling sorry for himself, however, he has risen above it by helping his mom in their restaurant. He's now working for his aunt's lock-and-key shop at Rustan's Cubao.

"Chari is a simple girl," he says. "She has accepted me for what I am and I thank her for that. That's why I promise her I will do my best to make our marriage work."

Yes, Cesar went through several stormy chapters in his life during his teens. But the young man would rather not dwell on them and focus instead on the future. And the future begins five months from now when Cesar and Chari finally walk down the aisle on July 21 at Binondo Church.

No, Chari's heart, unlike her wallet, hasn't been stolen. She has willfully given it to Cesar.

E-mail the author at avergara @inquirer. com.ph

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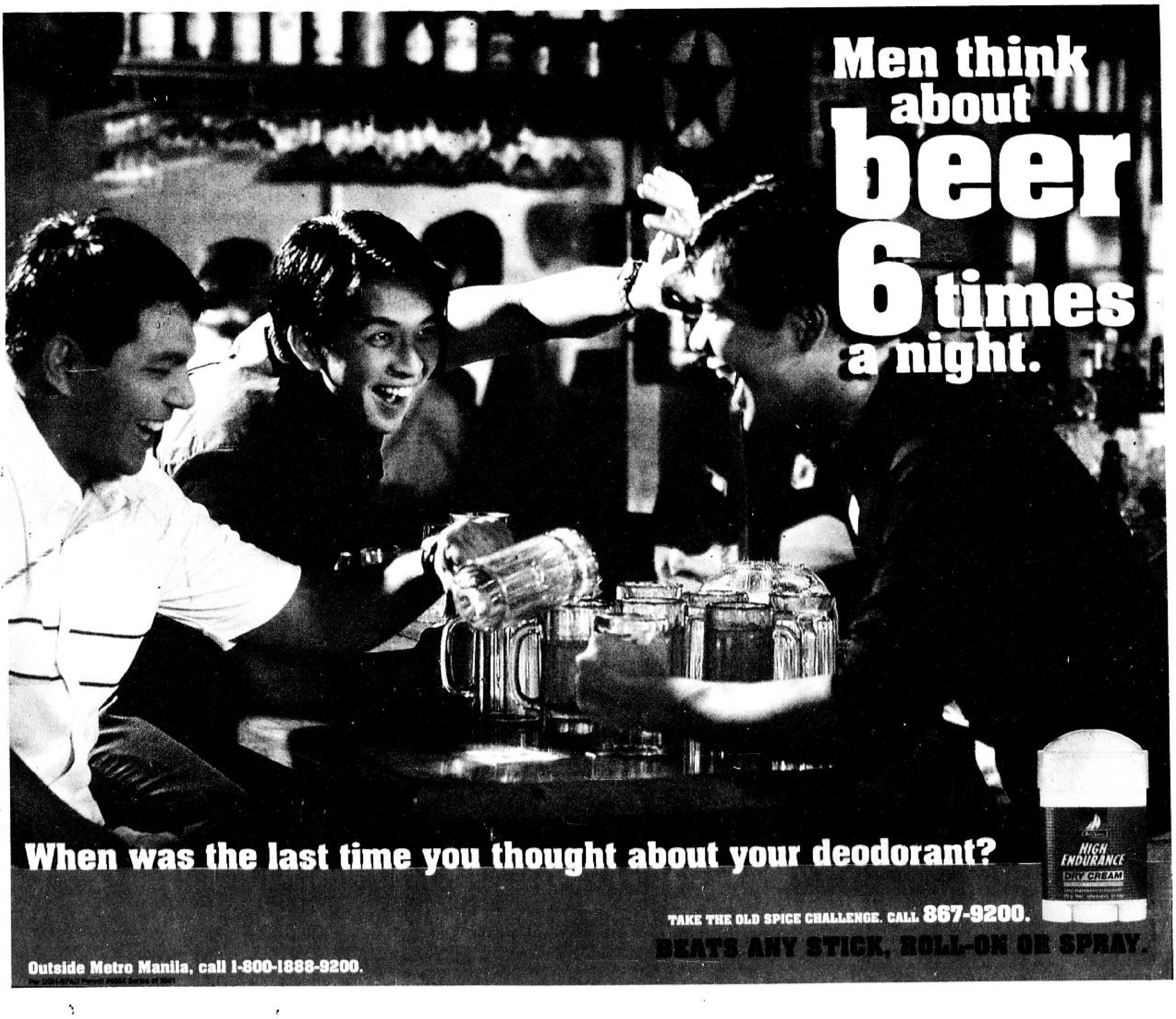

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TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

Marinduque redux

ELEPHANT Island (above), like a dinosaur in repose

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY AMADÍS MA. GUERRERO

IN 1996, an ecological disaster struck Marinduque. A weakened tunnel of the Marcopper Mining Corp. collapsed, and enormous amounts of tailings—water mixed with crushed or ground bits of copper—spilled out and onto the Boac River, covering a stretch of 16 kilometers, destroying marine life, and flowing into the Tablas Strait.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, then under Secretary Victor Ramos, and the agencies concerned instituted emergency remedial measures. But it took a year before the waters renewed themselves.

"Mining is finished here now," declares DENR provincial officer Benito R. Albrando, a native of Sariaya, Quezon. "So the best thing is to develop tourism and agriculture. I am recommending the development of pension houses throughout Marinduque."

A heart-shaped island province with many islets and serene seascapes, Marinduque is part of Southern Tagalog (Region IV). It is known primarily for its colorful Lenten pageantry, the Moriones Festival, which this year falls on April 9-15.

The province is about two hours by boat from Lucena City's Dalahican Port, depending on the speed and type of the vessels (most of which have seen better days). Asian Spirit also flies several times a week from Manila to Gasan, Marinduque.

Although some areas bear the ravages of mining, Marinduque's six towns, for the most part, are clean and green, rustic, and relatively unspoiled. Trees and plants abound in many areas. Gasan, for example, has been adjudged the cleanest town in the region and one of the cleanest nationwide.

From Quezon, the entry point to Marinduque is Mogpog's Banalacan Port. It is an attractive port zone, with clean, dark green waters where the locals snorkel. A monument to the Blessed Virgin (*Ina ng Biglang Awa*, the province's patron saint) stands guard, and there are several islets with dense foliage and beaches near the shore.

A cemented zigzag road leads to a view deck, owned by the provincial government but underutilized, which gives the visitor a glimpse of the Mogpog coast and the nearby small islands.

Although modernity is fast catching up with Boac, the capital town retains its quaint charm. In the streets around the plaza are found many pre-war *bahay na bato* (stone houses), with their awnings, *capiz*-shell windows and *ventanillas* (openings) below the windows, marked by wooden carvings.

One grand house, however, is showing signs of decay and neglect. It is now a maritime school. Its first level has been plastered over with unsightly cement.

Beside the plaza, with its seven pine trees, is another interesting structure: the museum building, constructed in 1887, and which was at various times a school for boys and the colonial jailhouse. Among the artifacts, shells, vintage photos, antiques and fashion accessories in the museum are Moriones masks, costumes, and souvenirs.

One of the cultural attractions in Marinduque is the Boac Cathedral, with its brick walls, carved wooden portals, and brick-topped belfry.

A 1972 National Historical Commission plaque notes in Tagalog that the *Dambana ng Banal na Ina ng Biglang Awa* (literally, Shrine of the Holy Mother of Sudden Compassion) was built in 1792. The faithful believe that the Blessed Virgin saved them from the Moro raids of the 19th century.

In 1899, the flag of the revolutionary republic was brought by one Canuto Vargas to be blessed in the church. A final footnote is that the parish priest, Saturnino Trinidad, helped the American Capt. H. H. Bandholtz negotiate the surrender of Col. Maximo Abad and 300 revolutionaries.

On the carved wooden portals are etched images of the evangelists Mark, Luke, Matthew and John, as well as of flora and fauna and cherubs.

The interior of the church, faithfully restored and well maintained, is just as impressive as the façade, if not more so. The walls are brick-laden, and there are two sets of the Stations of the Cross: made of stained glass and carved in wood. On the walls hang period lamps.

There are three intricate *retablos* (altar backdrops), and on the ceiling are designs of Muslim brass gongs, surrounded by triangles, which look like Christmas lanterns from a distance.

Where is the visitor to stay? The choices include the Boac Hotel and Tahanan sa Isokin in the town proper; the Hightown Hotel in Mogpog; and J. Red's Hotel in the town of Santa Cruz.

Along the western coast are a clutch of resorts from Boac, Gasan and Buenavista and then on to Torrijos in the southeast. One of the resorts in Buenavista, Katala, which has a European ambience, is owned by an Austrian and his Filipino wife.

The sand along the beaches is mostly gray, not the kind foreign tourists flock to. But there is a white-sand beach (and a resort, Jovita's Paradise) in Torrijos.

A discordant note is that some of the resorts are operating without an environmental compliance certificate. "We have given notice to some 15 resorts," says Flordelino Rey, a DENR forester in charge of environmental management. For the meantime, the resorts are being allowed to operate.

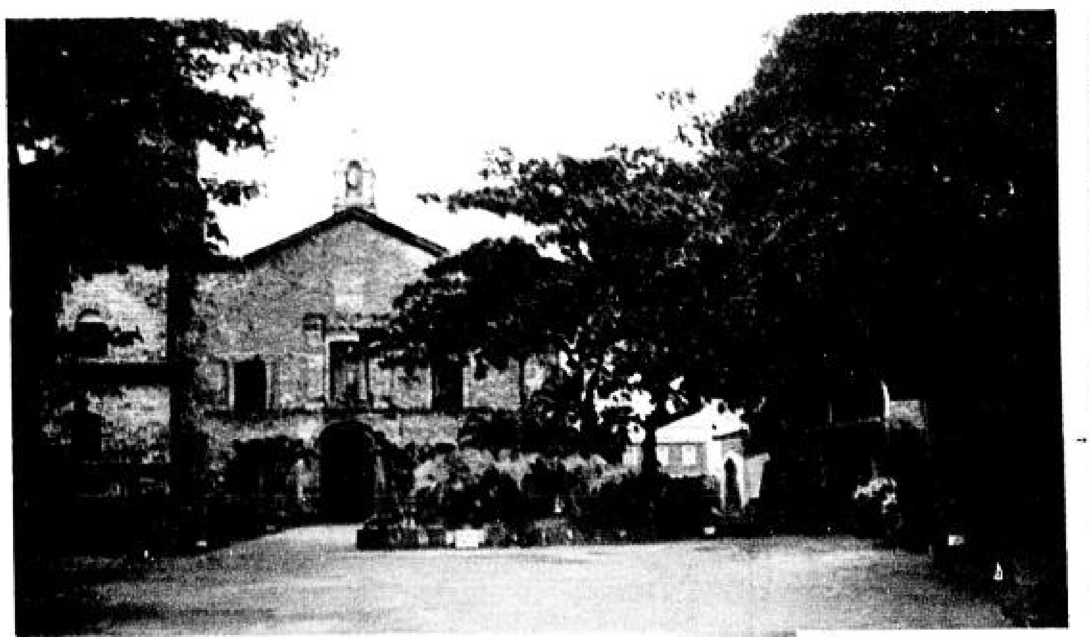
Near the Gasan shore are the *Tres Reyes* (Three Kings) Islands, Gaspar (which has white sand from cracked corals), Melchor and Baltazar. The islands are popular sites for swimming, snorkeling and picnicking. Some families who stay there overnight bring along tents.

And on the southern tip of Marinduque is its one-time premier ecotourist attraction, Elephant Island, known as *Las Islas Elephantes* during the Spanish era although it is not really shaped like an elephant but more like a dinosaur in repose.

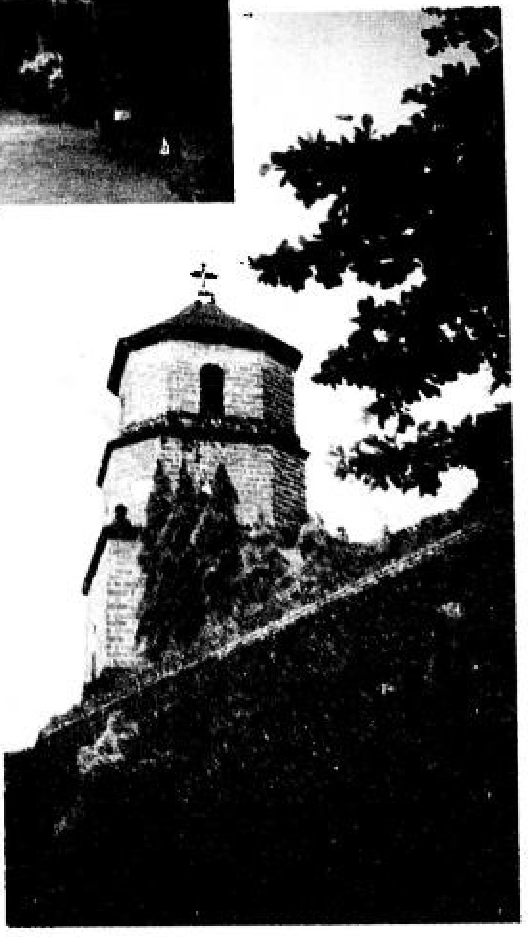
Developed by a Japanese national and his wife, the resort had first-class facilities, including a tennis court, swimming pool, cottages, a restaurant, and a sports center. Alas, the negative publicity surrounding the mining disaster of 1996 soon forced the resort—which, it turned out, was built illegally because it is in a timberland area—to close shop. And to think it was some distance away from the polluted site.

Today, only a few caretakers remain on the island that has become, pun not necessarily intended, a white elephant. If environment officer Albrando has his way, the DENR would take over the island, restore it, and develop it into a zone for domestic tourism.

Will this bring back the glory days of Elephant Island?



THE BOAC Cathedral, built in 1792



AT THE foothills of Mt. Malindig, a dormant volcano (left); the cathedral's brick-topped belfry (above)

TRAVEL BRIEFS

INDULGENCE

There's no need to go far to recharge. Discovery Suites at the Ortigas Center invites both urbanites and out-of-towners to enjoy a weekend Indulgence Package that includes, among others, a choice of a Swedish massage, an aromatherapy facial, or a salt scrub treatment. For inquiries and reservations, call 635-2222.

Daily flights to Hong Kong

CATHAY Pacific Airways (CX) starts daily flights from Cebu to Hong Kong starting tomorrow.

"This is certainly an exciting development for Cebu," said Adrian Harley, CX country manager (Philippines). "The arrival of daily flights to and from Hong Kong clearly demonstrates our long-term commitment to the Philippines."

As a special promotion to Cebu residents, CX will extend an upgrade to business class for all passengers flying on an economy class full fare ticket from Feb. 12 to March 31.

CX will operate the route with Airbus A-340 aircraft, each with a capacity of 249 passengers and with a personal television set in each seat.

For reservations and inquiries, contact CX at 254-0746 or your travel agent.

Monopoly Club

INCENTIVES await Waterfront Hotels & Resorts Philippines' frequent bookers via membership in the Waterfront Monopoly Club.

Joining the Waterfront group—Cebu City Hotel, Mactan Island Hotel and Fort Ilocandia Hotel—in this promotional effort are Silkair, Rustan's Department Store, Tradewinds Tours and Travels and National Panasonic.

Launched in September, the Monopoly Club gives rewards to members through a point system based on room nights booked. To become a member, one should be a designated or registered booker of any corporate, government, association, non-commissioned company travel department staff and airline agency.

Membership is on an individual basis. A minimum of at least six individual reservations per year is required.

For inquiries, call the group's Manila sales and reservation office at 848-1075/1982/1984 and ask for Tere or Daisy, or visit its website at www.Waterfronthotel.com.

Romantic dinners

STILL planning for Valentine's Day? Check out Le Café at Legenda Hotel and Highland Café at Legenda Suites in Subic.

A Valentine's dinner for two is being offered for P900+, with a free glass of wine plus a rose for the lady. For reservations, call Le Café at 252-1888 local 1140.

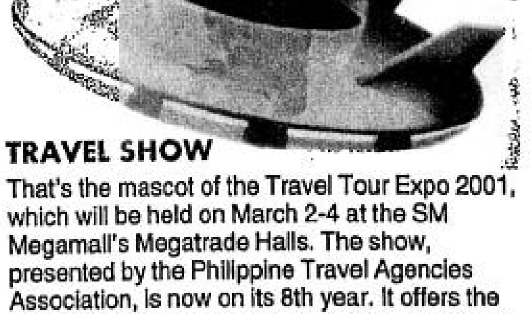
For the remaining Saturdays of the month, Le Café offers the delectable taste of traditional French cuisine at P350+ per person. Call for reservations.

* * *

AT THE Holiday Inn Manila, a Heart to Heart promotion on Feb. 14-15 offers superior room accommodation and a romantic dinner buffet for two with a glass of wine at Café Coquilla. All these, plus a breakfast buffet the next morning, can be had for P4,200 net.

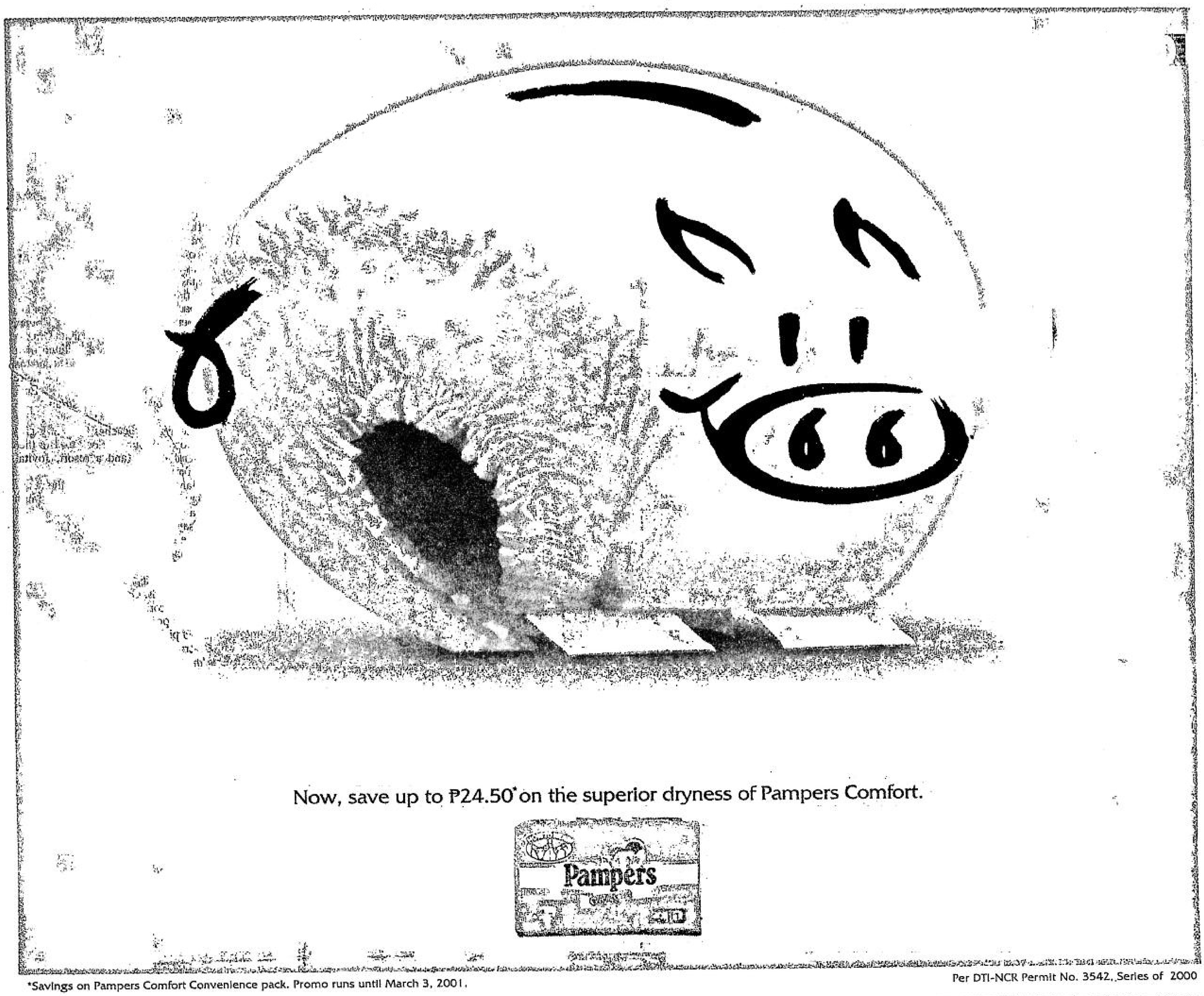
Booking must be guaranteed with a credit card. Special gifts await those who make the first 10 reservations.

This package is for local residents only and no FCC discount is available. For inquiries, call 526-1212 local 2343, fax at 632-526-5566, or e-mail at reservations@manila.holiday-inn.com.ph.



TRAVEL SHOW

That's the mascot of the Travel Tour Expo 2001, which will be held on March 2-4 at the SM Megamall's Megatrade Halls. The show, presented by the Philippine Travel Agencies Association, is now on its 8th year. It offers the best available travel options and vacation deals, as well as embassy forums, entertainment and games, raffle draws and cultural presentations. The public is invited.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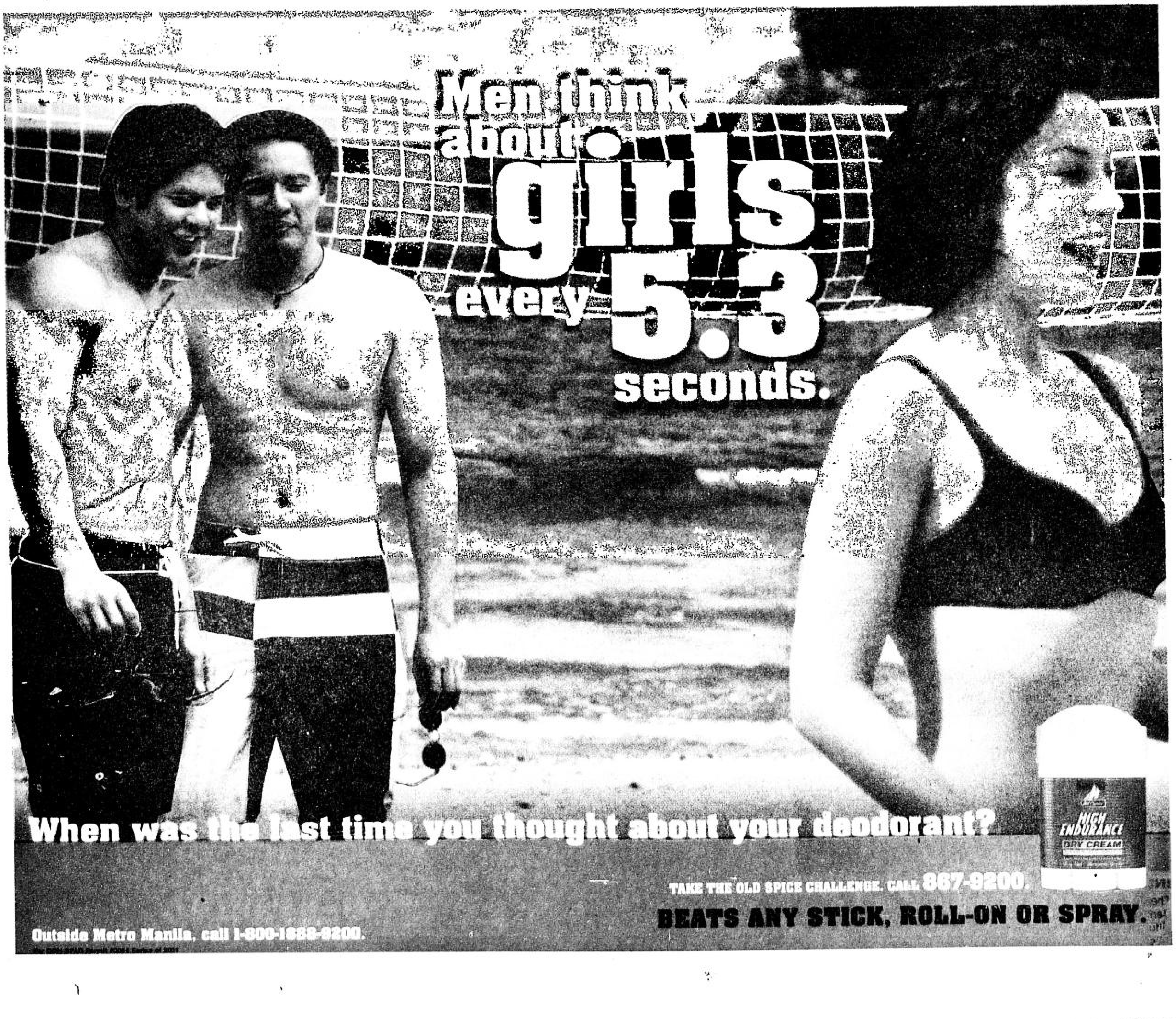
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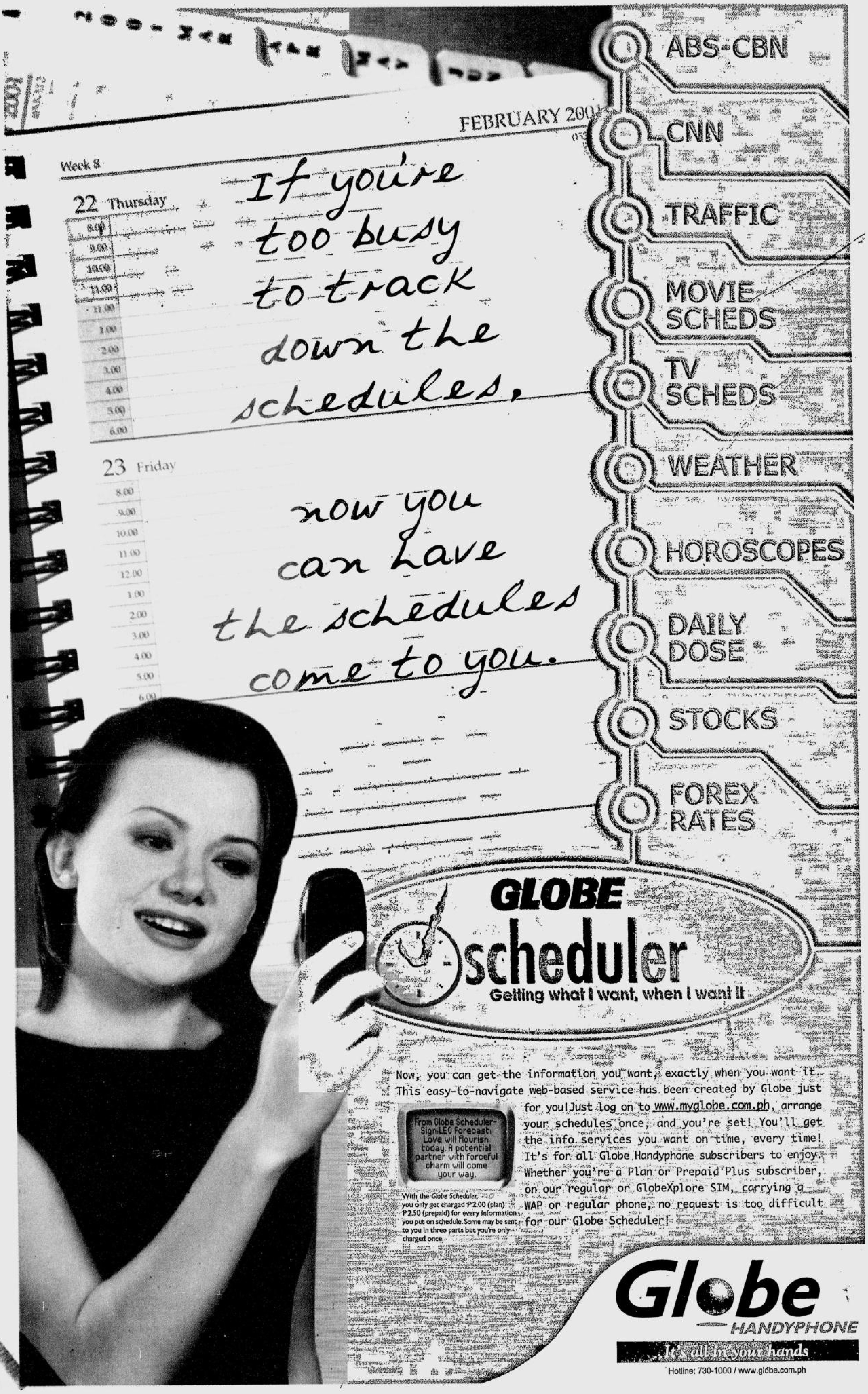
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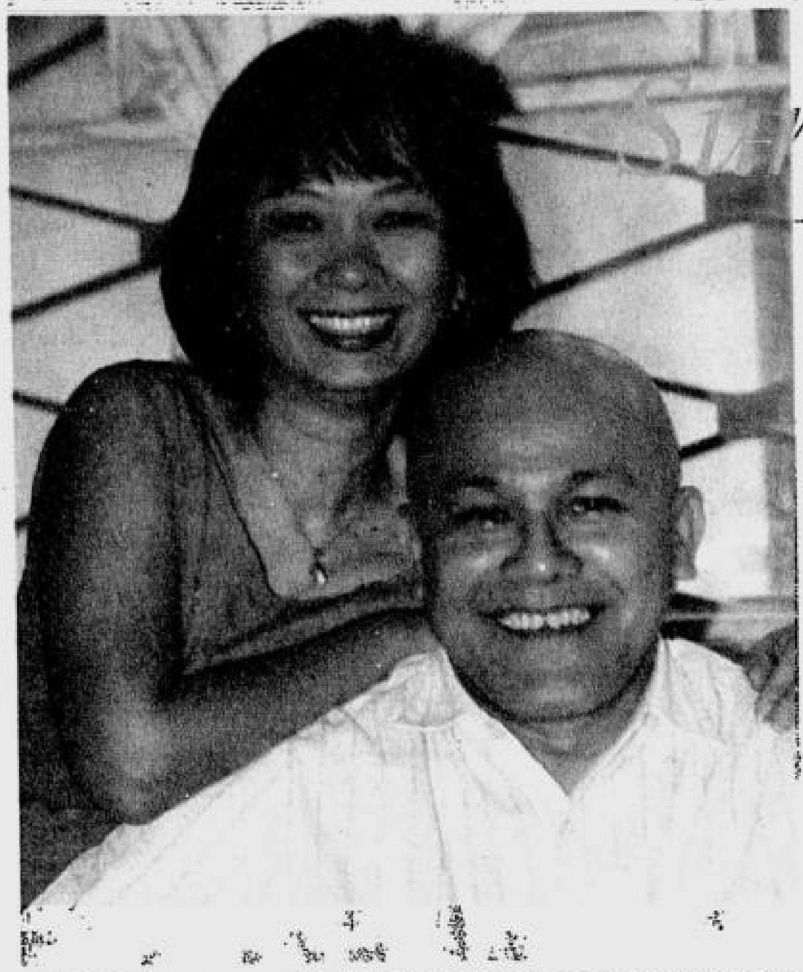
Sunday LIFESTYLE



Their whirlwind romance was cemented in just four days but has lasted 19 years and counting

DEFYING the common notion that such a romance ends as quickly as it begins PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Fools rush in . . . and prevail

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES

THEY met in the most unromantic settings: an insurance seminar. But on day one of the seminar, they felt something building. An hour later she winked at him. By the end of day two, he had checked out her files. On day three, he finally called her at home. That night he proposed. On day four, they found themselves applying for wedding license at city hall.

It didn't matter that they were both seeing others at the time, everything happened in a flash, and everybody else had to take a backseat to their precarious, high-speed trip to love city.

Dennis and Joy Rago were the only ones who believed that their fast-track romance would stand the test of time and defy the common notion that whirlwind affairs fizzle out just as quickly as they start.

How it happened

It was a rainy Monday in March 1982. Joy's girlfriend invited her to attend a four-day life insurance seminar in Makati. Though hesitant because she had other plans that night, Joy obliged and came with her boyfriend of two years.

Dennis, out of the seminary for two years, was the main speaker at the seminar.

"I noticed them enter the conference room because they were late by about 20 minutes," recalls Dennis. "They occupied the last row."

He still vividly remembers how she looked that evening. "She was stunning in denims topped with a white blouse with ruffles and a plunging neckline. Her hair was neatly tied back."

Little did he know that Joy was also eyeing him: "The first thing I noticed was his eyes. They were deep and expressive."

Immediately, Joy told her unknowing boyfriend that she had found the man she would marry. A remark her boyfriend, who was also a former seminarian, brushed aside, considering Joy's playful and free-spirited nature.

"During a break, I approached Dennis and asked him what seminary he came from," says Joy. When she went back to her seat, Joy told her boyfriend: "He's a Jesuit."

"On my part, I was making an extra effort to impress her and I was glancing at her while I was speaking, careful not to fix my eyes on her," Dennis says.

FOOLS/ p.D2

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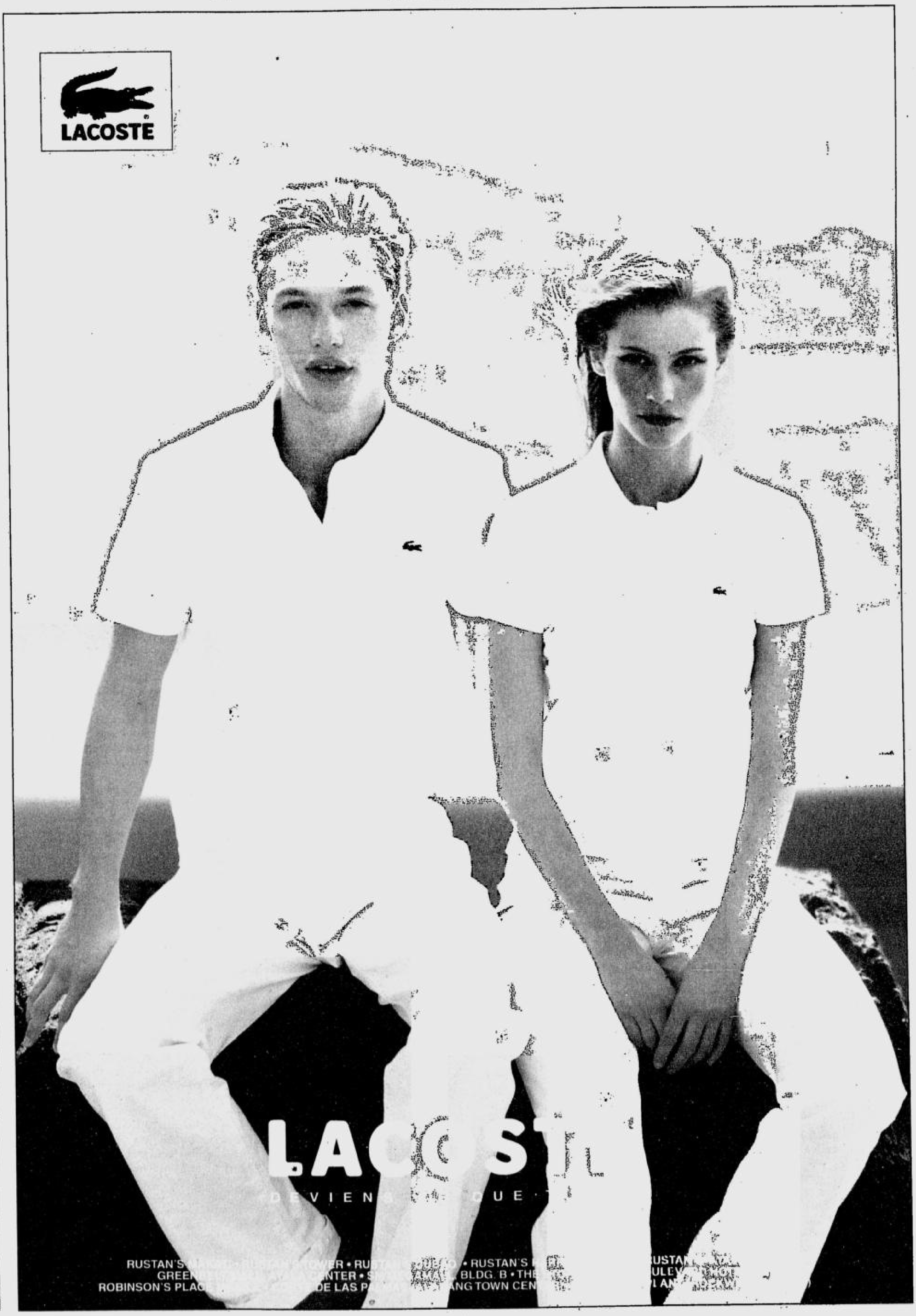
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Fools rush in . . . and prevail

(From page D1)

But Joy decided to take the initiative. As Dennis went around making another sweeping glance, she, with her hands under her chin and eyes steadily gazing at him, flashed that killer wink that floored Dennis.

"I was shocked by what she did," says Dennis, who paused briefly and looked at the ceiling, trying to keep his composure. He went on with the lecture, but couldn't sleep that night.

The following day, Dennis was so intrigued by the girl who winked at him that he browsed through the participants' files to find out her name.

"I didn't catch her name," says Dennis. "All I remember was that she came from La Salle Bacolod. *Hindi na ako talaga mapakali sa kakaisip sa kanya.*"

The morning of the third day, Dennis took a chance by calling her up, hoping to surprise her. However, he was the one who got the surprise of his life when Joy suddenly blurted from the other end: "I was expecting your call."

Taking the cue from there, he invited her out to dinner after the seminar. Joy told her boyfriend to skip that session.

They went to Tia Maria's restaurant on Makati Avenue at 9 p.m. Over a plate of chili con carne, burritos and nachos, they talked about their jobs, childhoods, inclinations and what-have-you.

After two hours, Dennis, emboldened by a few bottles of beer, suddenly asked her to marry him. Joy, with a glass of margarita in her hand, still remembers the exact words: "Joy, without much ado I'd like to marry you!"

"I said it because I felt strongly for her," Dennis says. "I even told her that I could clearly see her to be the mother of my kids. *Huwag na natin patagalin ito.*"

Stunned, Joy retorted: "Give me a minute!" But it took only three precious seconds for her to reply: "Yes, I'll marry you!"

The rest of the night was spent on planning the wedding, arranging the reception, planning a family, etc. At length, they discussed all these while bar-hopping to places like Papillon. They finished at 5 a.m. with a firm decision to marry right then.

At 8 a.m. with no sleep at all, they went to Manila City Hall hoping they could exchange marital vows before a judge. "We were really in a hurry to get married," says Dennis.

However, to their dismay, they were faced with a number of requirements before they could be married. "I was so furious to find out we needed to attend a seminar, get baptismal certificates, etc.," Joy says.

The civil marriage never pushed through. Instead, they went to Baclaran Church "*para kami na lang ang magkasal sa sarili namin.*" Their prayers, led by the ex-seminarian himself, went like this: "Dear Lord, we offer ourselves to you. With your grace, we promise to love each other forever, Amen."

Then they kissed.

The confrontation

Day four of the seminar ended smoothly. Joy's boyfriend was again instructed not to show up for the session.

But the inevitable happened that evening when Dennis took her home after the seminar to meet her family. The unsuspecting boyfriend—missing Joy after skipping the seminar for two days—also decided to drop by and found the speaker there.

"He furiously asked why Dennis was there," says Joy. "So I told him that I wanted to know him better and that he must give me some space."

But the boyfriend couldn't take it and dared Joy to choose between him and Dennis. "I begged him not to pressure me, but he was insistent, so I chose Dennis."

While the drama was unfolding, Dennis was outside the house casually chatting with another of Joy's suitors who had even brought her *bangus* and *tilapia* as a gift.

DENNIS and Joy Rago during a prenuptial pictorial in 1982

"I was prepared for whatever reaction the boyfriend would have," says Dennis. "But he was a gentleman. He shook my hand and said, 'you take care of her because I love her very much.'"

The wedding eventually pushed through that year at Paco Park.

"On the wedding day itself, that was when I had second thoughts. That was when I realized that everything happened so fast," says Joy.

Of course, they encountered opposition from family and friends who were worried about such a hasty marriage. Even the priest tried to convince them to spend some more time to get to know each other.

"I told them we will just get to know each other along the way," Joy says. "It wasn't easy, but look we are still going strong."

Strengthening their bond are four kids, Maki, 16, Jiggy, 10, Luigi, 9, and Justine, 6, and a foster daughter Jennifer, 14.

Dennis says: "It may have been a whirlwind romance but the thing is, we decided to love each other and we decided to stick with each other for keeps."

And so no matter how hastily it was carried out, that decision keeps them going, 19 years and counting.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Stealing . . .

(From page D6)

When she moved to her friend's house, Marivic discovered that she was one month pregnant. "I was so afraid because I'd be jailed and they'd get my child and make him a slave." So when she told Nic about her condition, the latter offered marriage.

At that time, Marivic was too focused on working in Canada to think about marriage. Besides, she feared her employer so much that she didn't know how to tell him the news.

On Jan. 28, 1990, they went to the Philippine embassy together with five friends and got married. After the wedding, they lived in separate homes for a few months until Marivic mustered enough courage to tell her personnel manager.

Then on April 27 of the same year, they got married at St. Mary's Church in Al-Ain. "It was a Catholic wedding but we had lots of Muslim guests."

Fourteen years have passed since their first meeting in the Middle East. Marivic and Nic have been blessed with two children, Louis Keith Jerome, 10, and Lourdes Victoria, 4.

Marivic is currently working at the marriage tribunal of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila while Nic is an electrician at the Casino Filipino of Silahis Hotel.

"Her being pregnant at that time was not the only reason we got married. She was ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of our child. She was unlike my past girlfriends who aborted the child in their wombs," Nic says.

Marivic describes her husband as "a friend" who is always ready to lend an ear to all her problems. "When we were going steady, I was already praying that he'd be my husband."

Through 11 years of wedded bliss, both have remained devoted to each other, especially Nic, who never fails to do the laundry and cook and bring lunch to his wife's office in Intramuros. On Valentine's day and on other special occasions and holidays, they attend Mass at the Manila Cathedral and share a hearty meal at home. "Every day is like a holiday. It doesn't make any difference."

Speaking to Marivic and Nic, one can sense a common tone in their voices—triumph. The details change and the social circumstances vary but a marriage like theirs always happens against all odds.

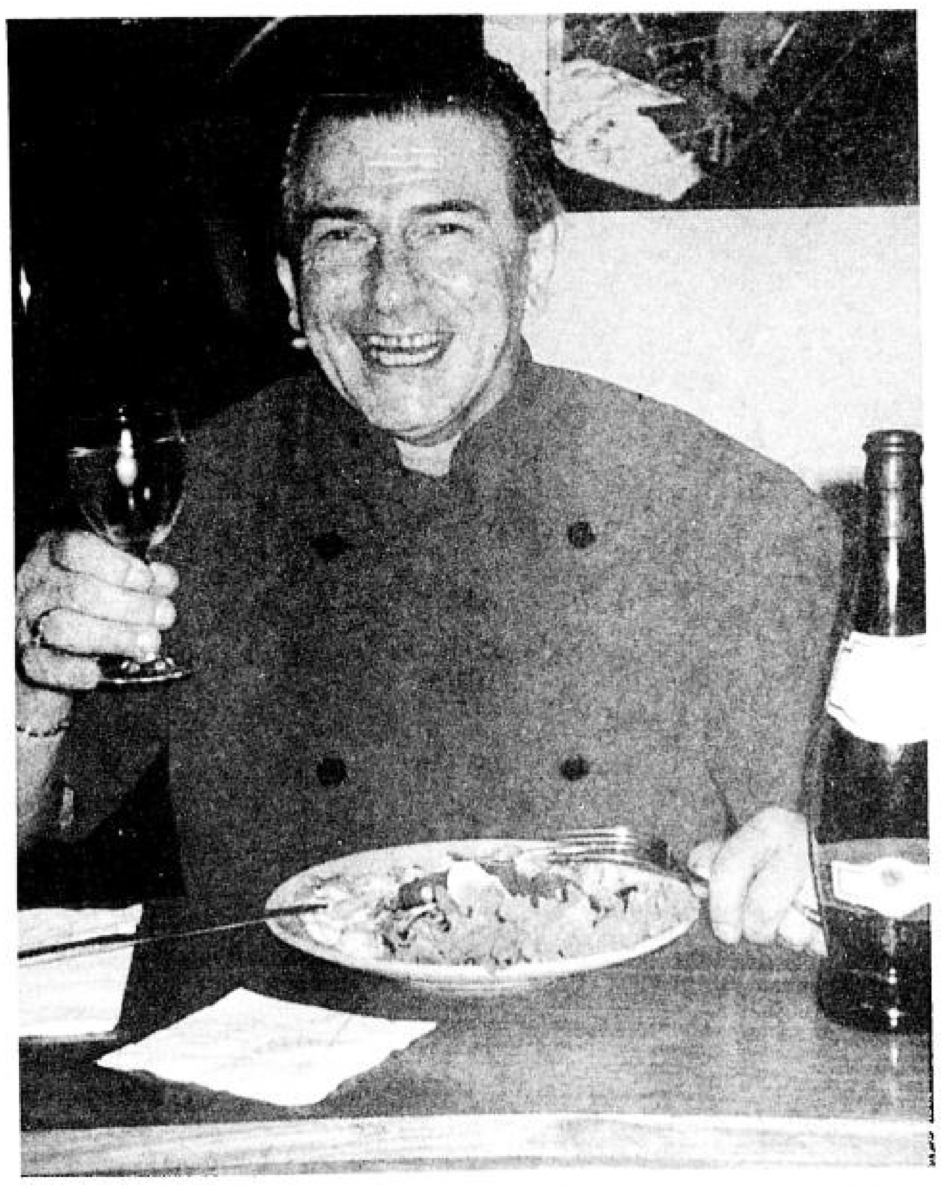
E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Romantic dining for the day of hearts

LOVE CRAVINGS AT CRAVINGS. Branches of Cravings are offering unique offerings for Valentine's Day. At Cravings-Katipunan, there's a candlelit dinner with a special menu and jazz music. At Cravings outlets in Robinsons Galleria, Greenbelt, Festival Mall and Asturias-UST, there's a wide array of food choices. C2 Restaurant and Bar at the AIM Conference Center in Makati presents "A Valentine Symphony." The special menu consists of Tuna Tartare with Fresh Arugula and Tomato Sauce. For the main course, it's a choice between Seafood and Oyster Mushroom Risotto and Fennel Crusted Beef Medallion with Roasted Pearl Potatoes. For dessert, it's either Buko-Raspberry Granite or a scoop of Häagen-Dazs ice cream. Chocolates and a glass of wine are given free for every order of the special menu. At the Seven Suites Hotel-Observatory in Antipolo, there's Cheer Ecstasy, a suite harmony package that includes dinner under the stars and a matchmaking game for the loveless. Call 750-1010 local 2083/2081 or 752-4022.

CAKES AND ROMANCE. Cravings has garnished two specialty cakes—L' Opera and Hamburg Harbor Torte. L' Opera is a French classic meringue cake filled with coffee butter cream and coated with pure chocolate ganache. Hamburg Harbor Torte is a duet of two layers of luscious German chocolate cake with frosting, flavored with two contrasting spirits, and garnished with chocolate wafers. Available until Feb. 28 at all branches of Cravings (Katipunan, Shangri-La, Greenhills, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Festival Mall, Greenbelt and Asturias-UST).

GRILLA BAR AND GRILL. For Valentine's, Grilla Bar takes on the job of ordering the balloons, stuffed toys and chocolates. It also delivers your gifts to your table to surprise your date. It even arranges for the playing of your love song over dinner. The Valentine's special menu consists of Creamy Pumps Soup, Grilled Chicken and Corolla Salad with Wasabi Dressing for starters; choice of Seafood Saute with Cilantro Sauce, Garlic Spinach and Saffron Rice or Oriental Garlic Steak with Mushrooms (premium Australian rib-eye), Buttered Corn and Carrots and Mashed Potato for main course; and Banana Fritters topped with Vanilla Ice Cream and drizzled with Chocolate and Caramel Sauce for dessert. Call 678-4664, 632-2397, 632-9691.



CHEF Tiziano Cavellini spices up a special Valentine menu at Bravo! The meal goes with free-flowing wine.

ROMANCE AT ITALIANNI'S. Italianni's celebrates Valentine's the Italian-American way with glorious servings of delectable dishes capped by glasses of fine wine. For only P930, you and your date can enjoy a hearty meal. Feast on Fried Calamari, Penne Arrabiato, Chicken Parmigiana and Creme Brulee and two complimentary glasses of red or white wine. Italianni's Valentine set menu for four includes Italianni's favorites like the Spinach and Artichoke Formaggio, House Salad (large), Rosemary Chicken Fettuccine, Chicken Marsala Risotto, Pepperoni Pizza and Cappuccino Pie plus four glasses of wine for only P1,875. Log on to Pacific Internet and find out how you can win a free dinner for four at Italianni's Restaurant, TGI Friday's or Outback Steakhouse by joining the love-match game.

LOVE AT TGI FRIDAY'S. Add a touch of fun to your Valentine's dining at TGI Friday's. Not only will you and your date enjoy great-tasting dishes, you will also receive a P250 gift certificate for free which you can use on your next visit. The Sweet Treat gift certificate is valid until March 31.

CANDLELIT DINNER AT LINDEN SUITES. The Monsoon Restaurant and Bar at The Linden Suites will present Trumpets artists led by Audie Gemora on Feb. 13 and 14. They will sing romantic tunes from musical theater. Performing are Tony Pineda, Melani Mabilangan-Ligo, Lyn Yusi, Anna Liza Zialcita and Pam Gumabon. The show comes complete with a Valentine set menu. Set 1 includes Broccoli Cream Soup, Smoked Salmon with Mesclun Greens in Dill Mustard Sauce, Beef Mignon in Mushroom Red Wine Reduction with Pesto Mashed Potatoes and Mixed Green Vegetables, plus a Vina San Pedro 1998 SUB Cabernet Sauvignon. Set 2 consists of French Onion Soup, Caesar Salad with Broiled Chicken Breast, Pan Seared Gindara with Teriyaki Sauce with Steamed Rice and Misuno Vegetables, plus a Vina San Perdro 1998 SUR Chardonnay. Both set menus come with a grand finale of Strawberry Mousse and a choice of coffee or tea. The Linden Suites is located on San Miguel Avenue in Ortigas. Call 426-4829.

DON HENRICO'S. Don Henrico's will be giving out delightful sweets for diners who will visit the restaurant on Valentine's Day. Order two bottomless Nestea iced tea and get a heart-shaped balloon with Nestle Chocolate Classic. This is a perfect treat to complement a very satisfying meal. For a more pleasurable dining experience, try the latest menu offerings recently introduced by Don Henrico's. Plus enjoy scrumptious meals and toothsome Nestle Classic Chocolates. Don Henrico's has branches in Baguio, Acropolis Libis, Sunshine Square in Shaw Boulevard, Pedro Gil corner A. Mabini in Malate, Festival Super Mall Alabang, Tomas Morato, Jupiter Place, Glorietta 4, Banawe, West Avenue, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and Davao City.

BRAVO!. Chef Tiziano Cavellini has come up with a filling two-course meal that comes with free-flowing wine. This special menu can be enjoyed at Bravo!'s two outlets: at the corner of Adriatico and Nakpil Streets in Malate, and at the Festival Mall, Alabang.

The menu starts with a plate of assorted antipasti that entices the palate. Chef Tiziano offers a mix of distinct but complementary ingredients: *gamberi in salsa rosa*, *insalata di mare* and *insalata mista*. The *insalata di mare*, a seafood medley sprinkled with olive oil and herbs, is considered an aphrodisiac of sorts in Italy.

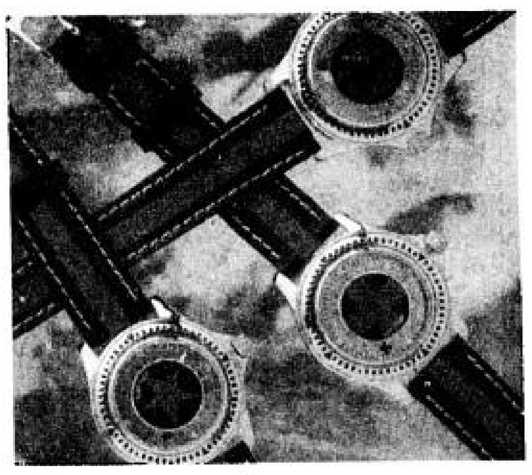
The first course, Tris di San Valentino, is an abundance of pasta on a plate with tasty sauces. Tortelloni Carbonara, a homemade pasta filled with ricotta and spinach, comes with a bacon and cream sauce while the Gnocchi alla Romana, a heaping of cheese dumplings, is made more tasty by a robust tomato and herb sauce. Risotto alle Fragole, the final pasta offering, is a rice dish laced with fresh strawberries.

The main course is a hefty choice of Bocconcini di Filetto in Aceto Balsamico, beef tenderloin braised in wine and balsamic vinegar, or Bacalla Fritto con Salsa di Salmone, pan-fried cod fish with creamy salmon sauce.

For dessert, there's Bavarese con Cioccolato Bianco alle Fragole, a tempting white chocolate mousse with strawberries.

Token of love

NOTHING makes someone feel more special than being remembered. This Valentine's Day show how much you care with a simple token of love. Robinsons Department Store suggests these cute figurines. An adorable little angel, bear or piglet is a perfect present for a friend, cousin, loved one, officemate or even an aunt. Very affordable at P34.75-P89.75. Get them at RDS Galleria, Ermita, Tutuban Center, Star Mall Shaw, Metropolis Star Alabang, Cainta, Imus, Sta. Rosa, Cebu and Bacolod.



Going French

Naf Naf Watches, the French-made watches for young and old alike, are currently available at selected Cinderella outlets in Metro Manila. The good news about Naf Naf Watches is that they are precrisis priced starting at P995.

US internship on autism for students and professionals

THE EDEN Family of Services based in Princeton, New Jersey is offering a one-year internship program for students and professionals who are willing to work with individuals with autism. The program will begin in June. An orientation seminar will be held on Feb. 12, 1-4 p.m., at the Generics Hall, Department of Health Region IV, Quirino Memorial Hospital, J.P. Rizal St., Project 4, QC, for a fee of P200. Call Romina Baltao of Learning Partners School Inc. at 744-5268 or the Autism Society Philippines at 926-6941 or 434-9249.

Torres High School Class '48 (April) reunion

TORRES High School Class '48 (April) will hold its 52nd anniversary reunion on Feb. 24 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong, 5-11 p.m.

Alumni may contact Dr. Leticia de Mesa at 928-7282 or 712-0845.

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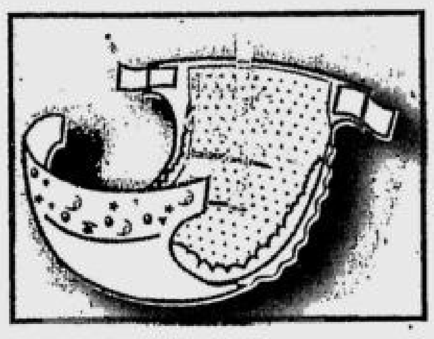

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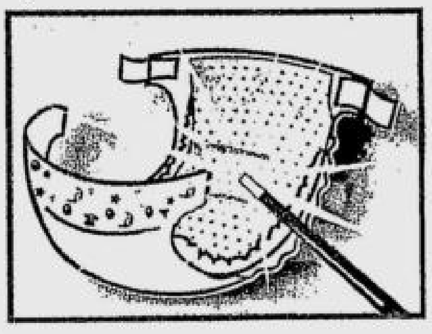

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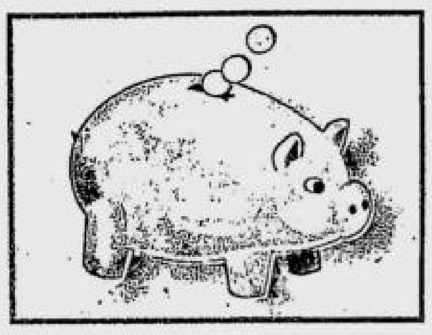

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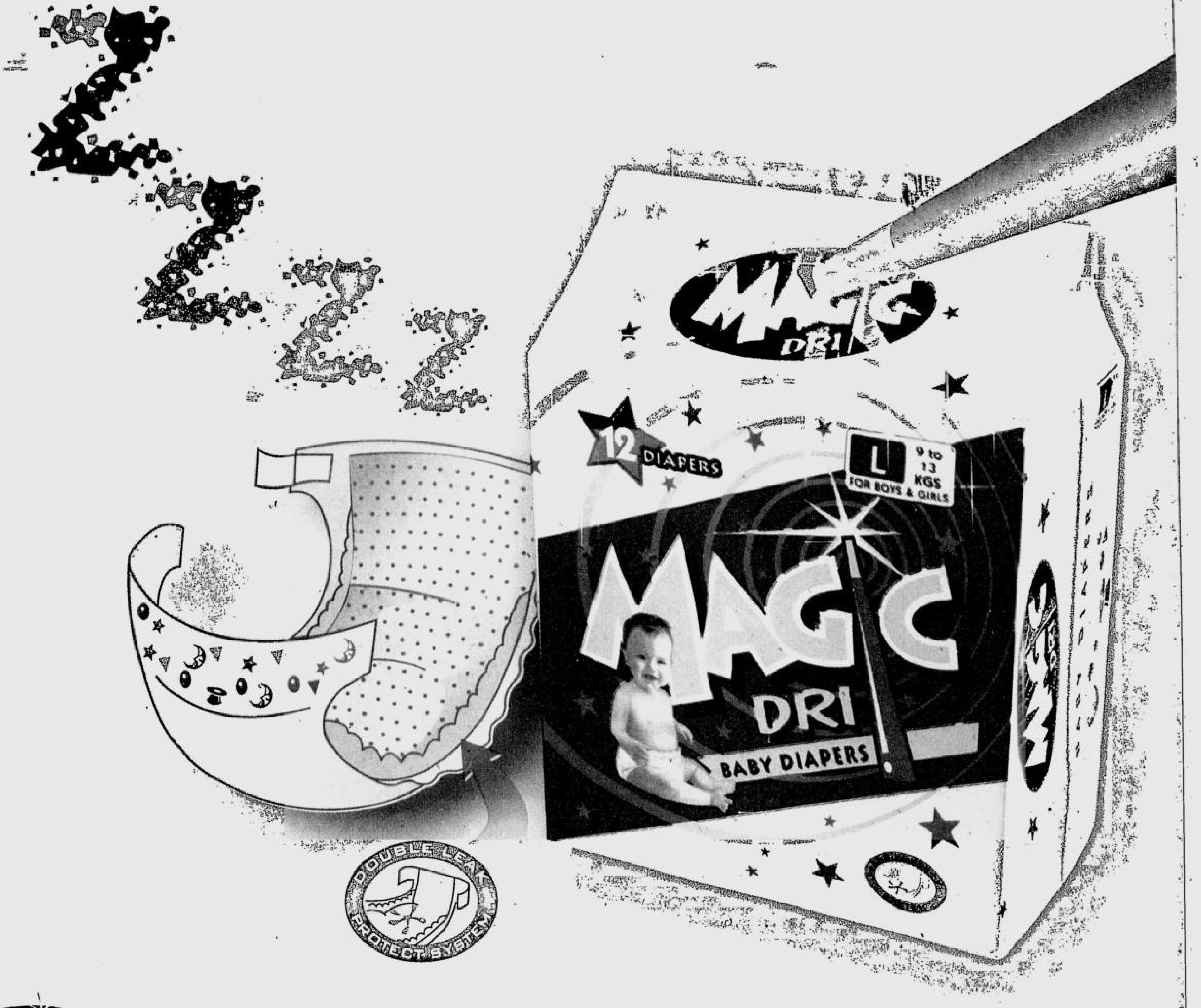
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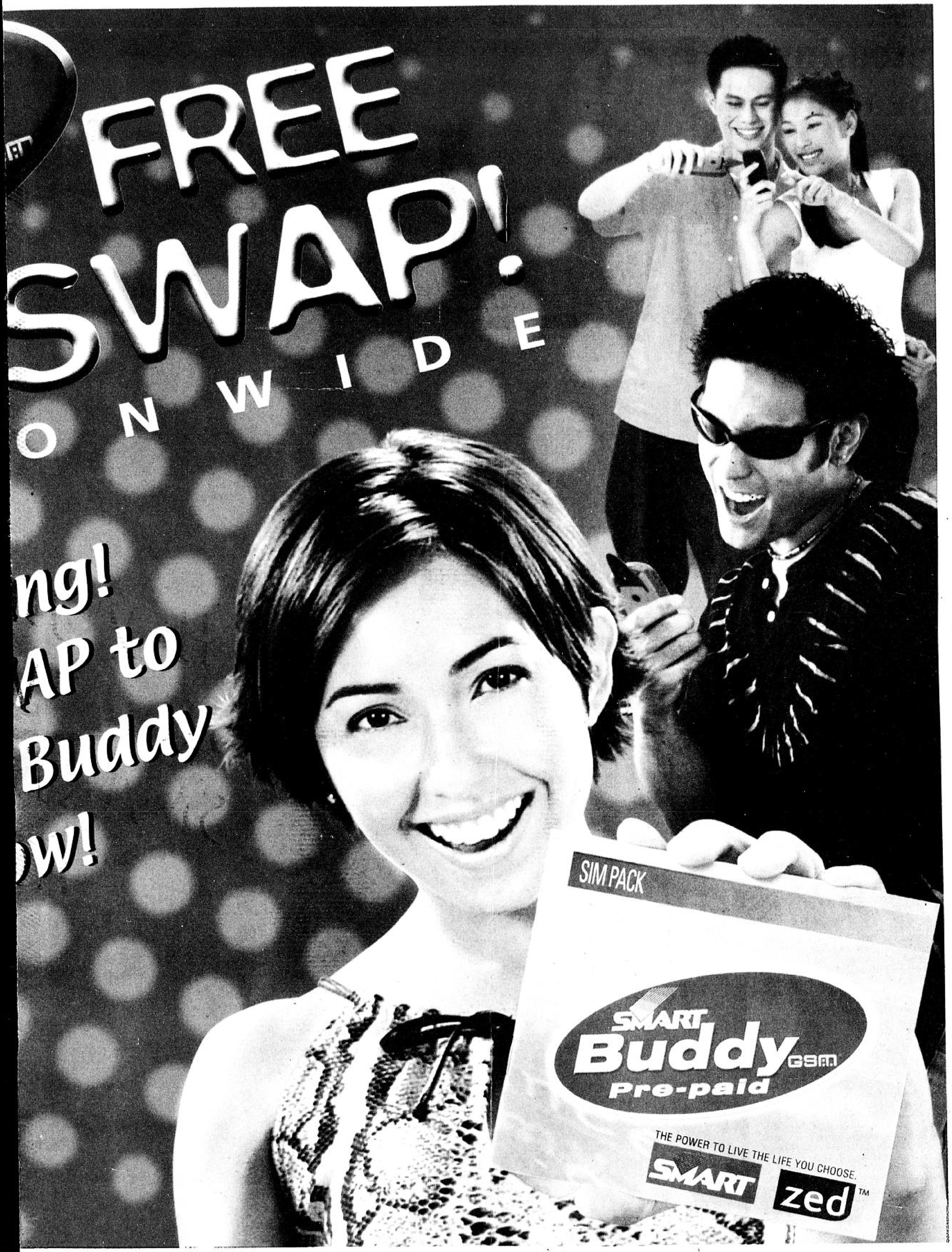
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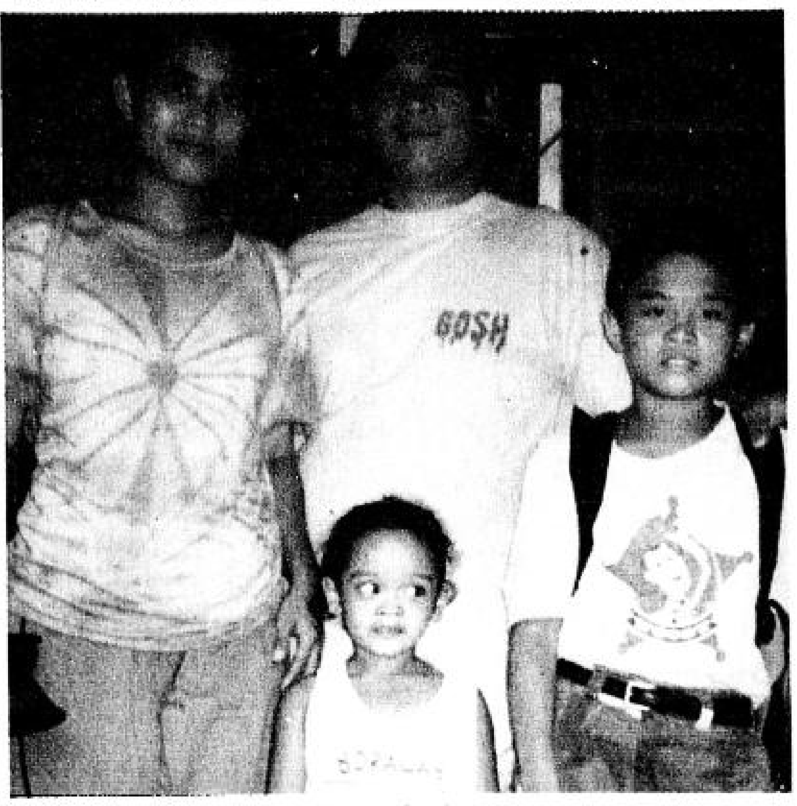
De La Salle University	DLSU Student Council	College of Liberal Arts Week-CLA Week Concert	Feb. 12-17 Feb. 14	DLSU Ampitheater
Ateneo de Manila University	AIESEC	Blue Chips	Feb. 12-17	ADMU Quad

Stealing heaven

By Rowena C. Burgos

MARIVIC and Nic Ambasan's wedding at St. Mary's Church in Al-Ain

They forged on with their love despite the incredible social restrictions in an Arab country. In the desert they built their own corner of heaven



MARIVIC and Nic with their children Louis Keith Jerome and Lourdes Victoria

MARIVIC Maribao and Nicasio Carabio Ambasan met in Abu Dhabi, where personal encounters are limited so amorous communication frequently depended on the written word and the telephone. Such love notes and phone conversations were like gold ore.

Just like the best of lovers, Marivic and Nic had to navigate the inevitable complications before the triumphant wedding march finale.

Their inauspicious first meeting occurred in a bookstore in Abu Dhabi in 1987. It was Nic's friend who was initially besotted with Marivic's charm, who was then browsing through books and magazines on Philippine history and current events. To Nic, it was Marivic who stood out from the rest of the women inside the store. "It was her simplicity especially that I noticed in her," says Nic.

On the other hand, Marivic was just as excited to meet fellow Filipinos. "To be romantically involved at that time was farthest from my mind for fear of being taken advantage of by men."

While poring over sports magazines, Nic asked Marivic, in a soft voice, where she hails from. (In some places of the United Arab Emirates, it is taboo for men and women, even relatives, to talk or even look at each other unless they're married.) He then paid for their magazines and while exiting the door, traded items on which their respective addresses were written. But they didn't see each other again for a year.

If there were any embers burning, neither of them felt the heat. Marivic continued her catering service in a ladies dormitory, where residents were picked up on weekends by their families. These girls are given a free college education in a university built by Sheik Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

For almost two years, Marivic led a life of seclusion in this building, which was located in the middle of the desert. No one could go near the gates of the compound unless one had permission from the guards. Private vehicles or taxicabs were prohibited inside the premises.

It was only during paydays that they were allowed to go out with a company driver—receive their salaries at the bank, send money to their families, shop and meet friends and relatives. Such activities should be accomplished within three hours, otherwise the bus driver would leave. The ones left behind would have to report to the Egyptian personnel manager. "He could make your life miserable," says Marivic who initially worked as a researcher at the Department of Foreign Affairs after completing her foreign-service studies.

Nic, on the other hand, was content with his work as an electrician, mechanic and forklift operator at a government office. He was able to help his parents finance their business in Divisoria.

Cupid takes charge

The paths of Marivic and Nic crossed again on Dec. 25, 1988. If fate played a role in uniting them, it stumbled many times before it got right.

Marivic and her companions were allowed to hear Mass at the Church of St. Mary's in Al-Ain. To her surprise, she saw Nic playing the guitar with the choir. "How my heart was filled with such beautiful music." Nic recognized her, too, but it took awhile before he remembered where he met her.

After the Mass, they were able to talk within the gates of the church where several Filipinos were sharing lively banter. Nic and Marivic exchanged phone numbers. But it was Marivic who always called because it was more difficult for Nic to give her a ring. "Our employer was more strict than his. And what made it harder for us was we could not go out anytime we wanted to. It could get us in deep trouble, especially with the harsh policemen around," Marivic says.

The first time Marivic called, she asked Nic to escort her to a party sponsored by the United Filipino Association at the Hotel Inter-Continental. Nic acquiesced. "It was my first time to dance although I had attended several parties." After talking and dancing to sweet music for two hours, Marivic had to go home.

When they could not talk on the phone, they wrote impassioned letters, which were opened before they could reach the couple. And Marivic didn't receive all of them.

So they explored all possible means to find a way out of such a nightmare. On a Friday after work, Nic would go to the house of a married friend where he'd wait for Marivic's call. They'd spend countless hours talking sundry topics. "It was through the phone that we got to know each other well, courted and got engaged," Marivic says.

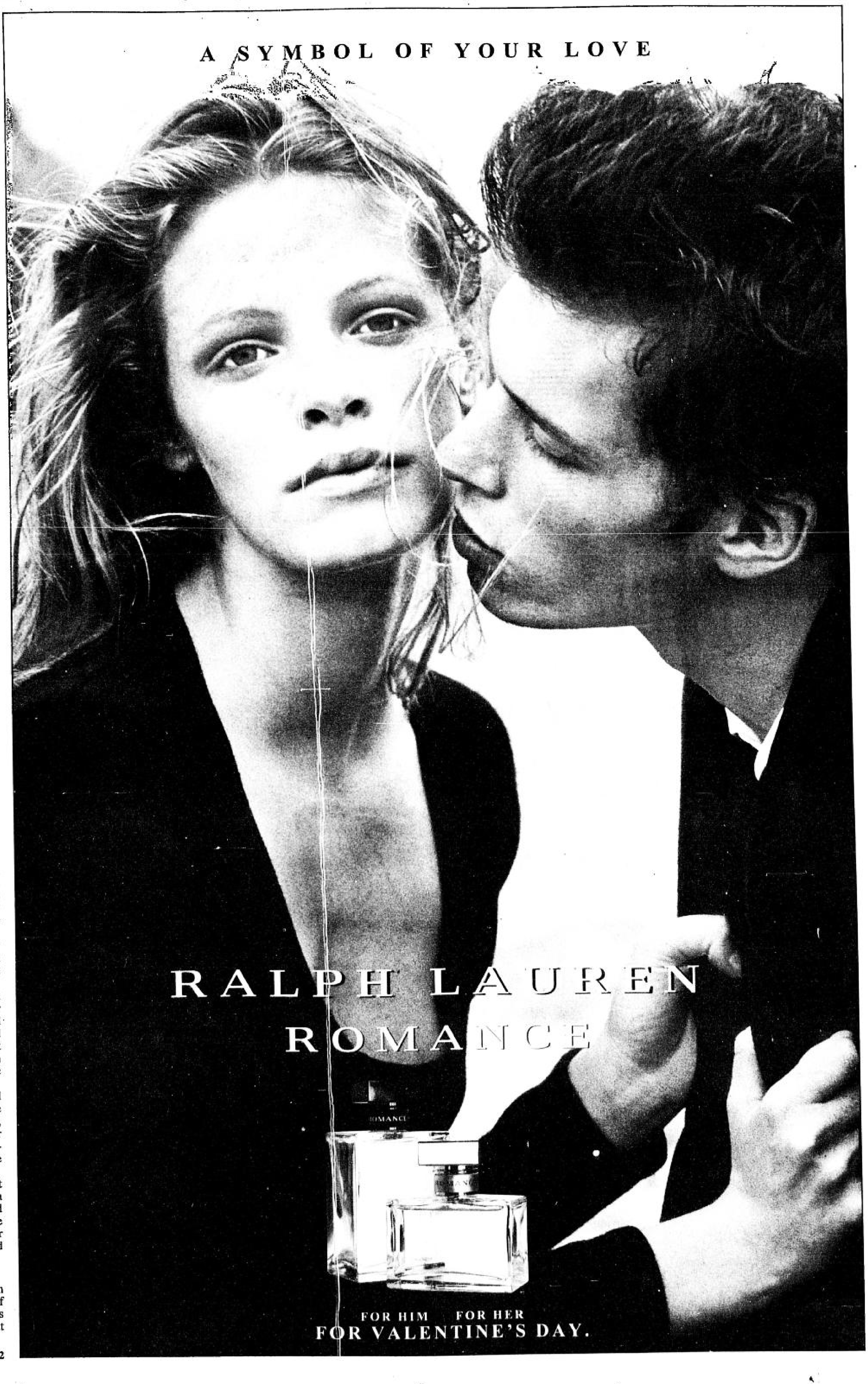
Even when barbed wire was placed around the telephone booths so the students would be discouraged from using them for long hours, Marivic and her friends managed to dig their way through the soil under the wires, the searing heat notwithstanding, so they could make calls to their loved ones.

On shopping day, they'd meet at the market where Nic would give her gifts. It became a routine for two years. "Three days before we'd meet, I was already excited. I became more inspired with my work. I always wanted to hear his voice, especially when he sang and played the guitar," Marivic says.

Test of commitment

One summer, Marivic was assigned to an office as front desk clerk in the capital city of Abu Dhabi. She stayed in a married friend's house where Nic visited her often, even if it took him two hours' travel time.

STEALING/ p.D2



The funeral in Yamacraw

MUSTARD SEED

Joseph Galdon, S.J.

IN THE TEXTBOOK of the Jesuit Juniorate Class, we have a very interesting article on a funeral in Yamacraw, which can help us review the celebration of our own funerals. Yamacraw is a little island in the Atlantic Ocean just off the South Carolina mainland on Eastern United States. The island is not very far from the city of Savannah in the state of Georgia. It is inhabited by Negroes who came to the island from Africa. The funeral of the Negroes in Yamacraw is a very positive character of those Negroes. It is also a good lesson for us for the death of those we loved in our own country.

Death of Blossom Smith

In Yamacraw, Blossom Smith suffered from a heart attack on a Saturday. One of her friends saw and ran to the local office and radioed for a rescue helicopter from Savannah to take Blossom to the hospital in the mainland since there was no hospital in Yamacraw. They then carried Blossom to an open field and half the residents in Yamacraw gathered around and wept and prayed for her. The helicopter appeared and then landed quickly. They loaded Blossom aboard and the helicopter took her to Savannah. In a nice thought, the helicopter was described as "a dark angel with rotating wings." In other words, it was a good help to carry Blossom in her sickness. But unfortunately, Blossom died that night in the hospital surrounded by strangers. Relatives and friends of Blossom in Savannah brought her back in a boat to Yamacraw for her burial.

Social event

A funeral in Yamacraw was a very social event. It was important when somebody died. While they were waiting for the return of Blossom's body for the funeral, her family was fed for two days and consoled by a lot of people in Yamacraw. The old women of the island also sat and ate together with Blossom's family and reminisced about their childhood and Blossom's. They also wondered who among them would be the next to die.

Early Tuesday morning, a group of Negro men went to the cemetery to dig a grave for Blossom. There were also many Negroes standing around the grave. Several relatives of Blossom hugged their friends when they came to the cemetery. Blossom's body was placed beside the grave. Her face was powdered and rouged in her death. Her body was neatly dressed and her hands were folded across her little bosom. Her casket was attractively decorated.

Ceremony

The funeral in Yamacraw was very similar to our funeral in the Philippines. First of all, a deacon began the funeral ceremony. He was apparently a Protestant and not a priest. He began with a prayer. He bowed his head reverently over Blossom's body and said: "Jesus took you from us. He took you to be with Him in heaven!" His sermon was a summary of the call of the dead by God.

After the deacon's sermon, everyone in the cemetery walked beside the open coffin of Blossom and viewed her for the last time before she was buried. Each mourner passed beside her body to look into the image of death. A chorus of older women sang a spiritual song as they walked past the coffin. Some of the Negroes reached out and lightly touched Blossom's face. Others looked at her and then covered their eyes and wept for her death. Some spoke to Blossom aloud and then bade her farewell. Some became very upset when they saw Blossom's body and were comforted by several women who seemed to be present at the grave for that purpose. Some others spoke the name of Jesus to Blossom and all the others in the cemetery. Some stared at Blossom and then sang again with the chorus. Many of them cast flowers in the coffin and on the grave.

A little later, after all the singing ended, the agents in the cemetery lifted the casket and lowered it into the grave and then covered the grave with dirt. One of the Negroes then said: "Look up to heaven. That is where Blossom is now. Her body is here but she is still alive in heaven. She died but she is still alive."

Lesson in death

That story of the death in Yamacraw is a very good lesson for all of us. When someone is sick we should help them. When someone dies we should go to their funeral and pray for them. St. Paul says: "That is the resurrection of the dead. What is buried on earth is subject to decay but what rises into heaven is incorruptible. What is buried is our body but what is risen into heaven is our holy soul. If we have a physical body we must also have a spiritual soul when we die."

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Cheated by her husband, she loses faith in marriage and love

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Twice, in a span of 12 months, I caught my husband cheating on me. There was a different woman in each case. In the latest case, he admitted the affair when I confronted him. I asked my husband why he did that but he could not give me any particular answer except to say that he wouldn't leave the kids and me because he loves us so much. Well, maybe he do love me and the kids but for sure he was having affairs.

And all the while I thought I had a fairly good marriage. We never fought about money. Our kids are healthy and doing well in school. We go on dates—movies and dinner—every week. I never neglected him. I cooked for him. I kept the house clean. I also made sure I never grew fat and did my best in the marital bed. I've been faithful and loyal in our eight years of marriage. He, on the other hand, came home every day, and has been a good father and provider. So, still, the big question is, why did he do that to me?

He asked for forgiveness, and I've given it for our kids' sake. I still love him but not as deeply as before. My views of marriage, love, honesty and trust have gone haywire. I don't believe such crap anymore. I've started to regret a lot of things in my life except having my two children.

How does one go on living when there's a constant threat of being cheated again? My rosary has been my constant companion, just to keep me sane and to help me sleep at night.

I just don't agree with what you wrote to JR some months ago about her womanizing father, that she should "be thankful that he is still there, only cheating on his marriage vows."

Do wives have to resort to that attitude in the end? Whatever happened to marriage vows being sacred and holy? Do I simply have to be content that my husband still comes home to us daily, and just turn a blind eye each time he sleeps around with whores instead of his wife?

I'll probably never know why my husband cheated on me twice. He never tells me even when I insist. The truth probably is that it's just a macho thing—he tried it just because his father did it, and so did mine.

This has taken a toll on us. A husband's infidelity destroys everything. Life isn't fair. Love is not a bed of roses. Romeo and Juliet are nothing but Shakespeare's imagination.

To the two women who had affairs with my husband, I hope you're sorry for what you did to my children and me because if you're not, then woe unto you and your children, too.

BETRAYED

If letters from many disagreeing readers were bullets, my advice to JR in that column would have long been riddled with holes and buried unmourned.

What I wanted to tell JR at that time was that she might be seeing more damage than there actually was, that she had not totally lost her father yet, and that since he still comes home she and her family have much opportunity to talk to him and resolve the problem.

Even now I still think that was a good message to impart. The problem was (as your and other readers' letters indicate) when I put the idea down on paper, I wrote with my left foot. It was a very bad case of the right hand not knowing what the left foot was doing. So, *mea culpa, mea maxima culpa*.

No, I was not implying that the wife should be a martyr in such cases. I did not imply that JR should assume such tack either. I suggested, rather, that while JR can help solve the problem, she should not feel that the fate of her parents' marriage depends on her. It's their marriage. They contracted it. The burden of saving it belongs to them.

Many parents comprehend that but have great difficulty accepting it. I guess that's because, in most cases, the betrayed wife interprets it to mean that she's obliged to assume a unilateral task: to fix something which her husband has maliciously put asunder. Perhaps due to anger, she often misses the better view: the task calls on both spouses. The husband shall seek and recover each and every broken piece, missing his sleep and breaking his back if necessary. And the wife, through her forgiveness, should provide the glue.

The repaired marriage, of course, will be a far cry from the original. But then, how many marriages do we know can sincerely boast of having survived the decades perfectly, without scratches or cracks or some of their parts glued back on? I don't know of any.

Maybe that means the true test of a good marriage is not that it is perfectly unscathed by the time of the couple's golden anniversary, but that it still stands after having been broken and repaired countless of times. A marriage is good not because it is enviably sweet in times of peace and harmony, but because it withstands the most trying times. I guess that's why marriage is holy and sacred—because to keep it, the couple must not only savor its glories but bear its crosses as well.

You asked how does one go on living when there's a constant threat of being cheated again? With great difficulty and much naivete, *hija*—because one would have to do it in much the same way as she would go on living while constantly holding her breath.

I believe, my dear, the possibility of betrayal and lack of trust is a constant, in one form or another, in every marriage. But it would be foolish to live your marriage in constant dread of that possibility coming true. Stop waiting for the other shoe to fail, because it is always possible that it won't.

Your husband has asked for forgiveness and a second chance. He has reaffirmed his love for you and your children. He has, in short, given you his word. And that's all you have. You can turn this world upside down, and he can do the same, but neither of you will find a guarantee to back that up. So you either take his word for it, or you don't.

When you take his word for it, remember that you, in effect, also give him your word that you'll trust him again. And as you expect him to keep his word, he will expect you to keep yours. The two of you will be exchanging vows—just as you did on your wedding day.

My best wishes for the two of you, *hija*. And may you have a happy Valentine's Day.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Mary, Immaculate Virgin and Mother

COMPILED BY
TELLY ALBERT ZULUETA

THIS Sunday, Feb. 11, being the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, we thank friend and author of "In Our Days" Joselito Q. Yap for reminding us of Mary's most well-known healing site. On Feb. 11, 1858, Our Lady first appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, a poor unlettered 14-year-old girl in a grotto in Massabielle, France.

It was, however, at her last apparition 16 days later, when Bernadette told her the priest wanted to know the name of the Lady who was asking that a church be built at the grotto. The Virgin Mary replied: "I am the Immaculate Conception." This means that Mary, by God's grace, was conceived without original sin because she was to become the Mother of God.

Unique to the immaculate flesh of Mother and Son was also its incorruptibility, as no remains of Mary were found when her tomb was opened at the insistence of the apostle Thomas who arrived three days after her "death." It contained only her tunic and fragrant roses.

Mary was the "Woman clothed with the sun" in Genesis (3:15) of whom God told the serpent Satan: "I will put enmities between thee and the Woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel."

No "woman" in Scripture could be anybody else but Mary whom Our Lord addressed as "woman" at the Wedding at Cana (Jn 2:4) and at the foot of the Cross (Jn 19:26).

"Verily, next to Christ, Who is God Himself, it is to the Virgin Mary that Christianity owes much of its existence. It is not only because through her that God became man. As important too were her deeds since the first century to spread the faith and save it from complete destruction by its enemies," emphasizes Brown.

Our Holy Father John Paul II on Oct. 8, 1985 entrusted the world to the protection of the Immaculate Mother of God in the next millennium. His act was not just wishful thinking, but imperative, because Mary holds the mandate and the power, for the task.

It was when, before dying, Our Lord made her the mother of humanity, specially of Christians represented by the disciple John. Thereupon she inherently acquired responsibility and authority over humanity, and therefore the right to fight Satan to save her seed.

Joselito Yap, who is finishing the sequel to his first book, writes that documented records researched by well-known author Michael Brown, indicate that there have been more than 8,000 significant apparitions of the Virgin Mary since the first century

"If one considers visions to ordinary, private people who have not formally reported them, the figure would be astronomical," says Mr. Brown.

They started in A.D. 47 with her apparition to the disciple James in Spain, by bilocation, as Mary was still living with James' brother John in Jerusalem. She told James where to build a chapel and to return to Jerusalem, where it was correctly prophesied that he would be martyred.

Seven years later, she appeared to a sick woman praying for a cure in Le Puy, a pagan stronghold in France. She told the woman to climb a hill called Anicium (today Mount Corneille). There the woman was cured and a church built because of the miracle, a buffer to the Druids occult.

"Two appearances—two churches," notes Brown. "They set the pace for the building of chapels or churches in pagan Rome and across Europe by apparitions and miracles of the Virgin.

Through the centuries more were built on spots where icons and images of the Virgin Mary were discovered, forgotten for many decades or centuries after they were buried or hidden for many decades—such as strange lighting or brightness, the sound of angelic music or the strange behavior of animal over where they had been hidden, or by actual directions given during her apparitions to chosen seers.

"To such is owed much the spread of Christianity in replacing occultism, paganism, nature worship, and all sorts of gods and goddesses in Europe, from where it was to spread later on in other continents by missionaries.

The Ave Maria prayer invoked by the disciples since the first century, had saved Christians from persecution, or brought inspiration, consolation and courage to those who had to suffer unspeakable cruelty and martyrdom.

From the time of Herod Agrippa I, then of Nero starting in A.D. 62, and on until the 4th century when Emperor Constantine I embraced Christianity. It was that prayer of the faithful led by Popes that Christian soldiers in early centuries attributed "impossible" victories against overwhelming forces out to conquer Europe against the Goths in A.D. 410-488, the Huns (Turks) in the 4th and 5th centuries, the Mohammedans starting in the 7th century, the Moors in the 8th century, and the Mongols in the 14th century.

The prayer developed into the "rosarium" after Spanish priest Dominic de Guzman was told by Our Lady in 1208. "Therefore, preach my psalter composed of 150 Angelic Salutations and fifteen Our Fathers and you will obtain abundant harvest" (of those Dominic wanted to convert to the Faith).

"Clever military tactic, it may be said," points out Brown, "but greatly outnumbered defenders of Christianity won many crucial land and naval battles (including our La Naval de Manila in 1646) praying for help from the mother of God with the angelic salutation "Hail Mary, full of grace." Heavy rains, landslides, storms at sea contributed much to the defeats of the enemies.

Jesuits in Hiroshima and Franciscans in Nagasaki miraculously survived completely unharmed by the atomic blasts directly above them. The only explanation given was that they lived by the messages of Our Lady and were praying the rosary when the bombs exploded.

Modernism has drawn a thick curtain covering the true faith and the Blessed Virgin Mary. But truly, nothing has changed. Yesterday, today, and always, the Virgin Mary is the Guardian of Faith, and God's own arm to fight Satan and eventually to crush his rebellion.

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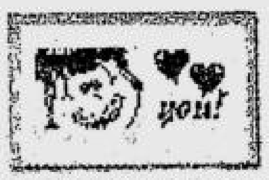
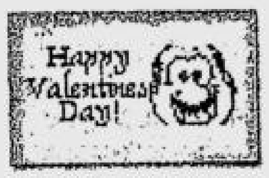
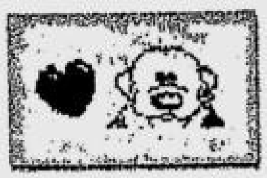


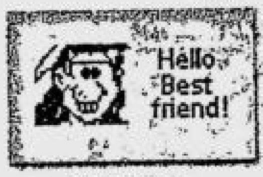
Falling in love isn't finding d perfect person.
It's learning 2 love an imperfect person perfectly.
Happy V-Day.


Happy Valentines Day!

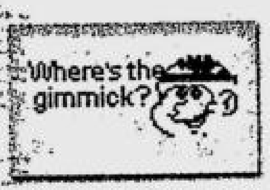
Valuing frendship is not merely by seeing
each oder everyday. Wat counts is dat somehow
in our bz lyf, we rembr dem.



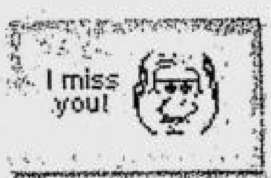
Sweet memories are woven from
the good times.
Happy Valentine's Day!


Hello Best friend!

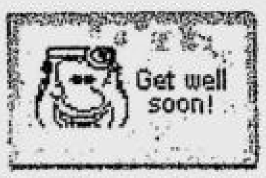
Best friend Ria I...
Para kang pustiso..
I can't smile without you !


Where's the gimmick?

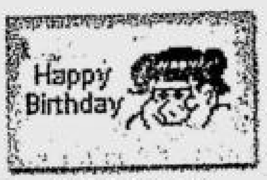
Call me this afternoon
at the office. Gimmick
tayo tonight !



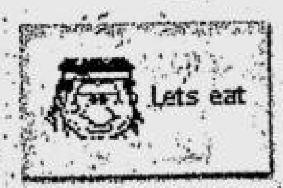
I'm sorry we haven't had more time
to spend together... but please
remember how important you are to me
and how much I care about you.
I Miss You!


Get well soon!

After a comprehensive evaluation, the hospital
staff has determined that you have ACUTE...
...BUTT. Get well soon!



Happy Birthday Gemma!
...Age is strictly a case of mind over matter.
If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Imitations of love

By Grace Shangkuan Koo, Ph.D.

MARIE Osmond popularized this chorus: "Paper roses, paper roses, oh how real those roses seem to be; but they're only imitation, like your imitation love for me." Francois La Rouchefoucauld said it well, "There is only one kind of love, but there are a thousand imitations."

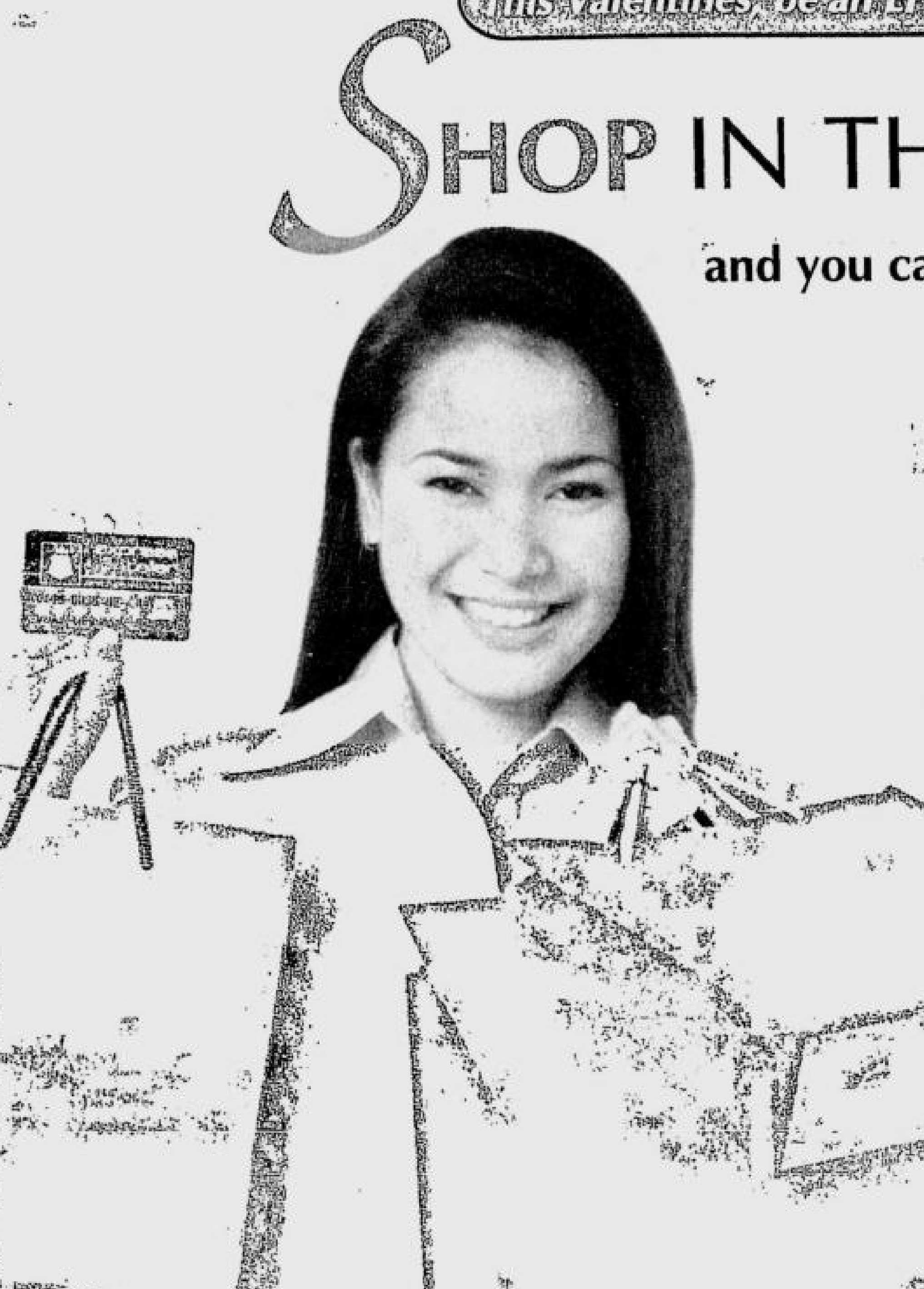
Why is love, so highly valued and pursued in our culture, a cause of so much misery and heartache? Radio programs, advice columns, TV series and concerts are devoted to the subject. These words of C.S. Lewis must be true: "Love begins to be a demon the moment he begins to be god." Our world worships "love"—exaggerating its power, propagating its myth, exalting in its beauty, and condoning anything done in its name.

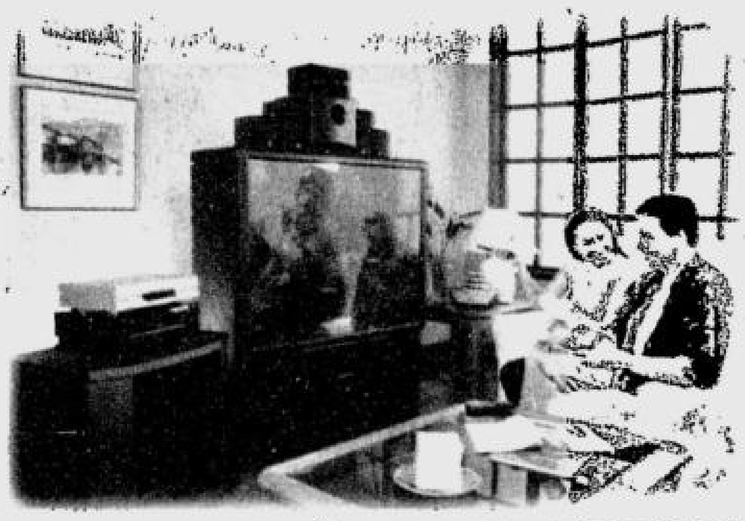
Valentine's Day excess is fun—and I have survived it each year, lured by its fanfare, then totally puzzled by its irrationality. It is a game people play. Yes, Valentine's is exciting—how many proposals are waiting to be said on that day, dreams to be realized and hearts to be swooned over. On the other side of the fence, I wonder how many wishes are waiting to be dashed, or hearts to be broken, and families to be betrayed.

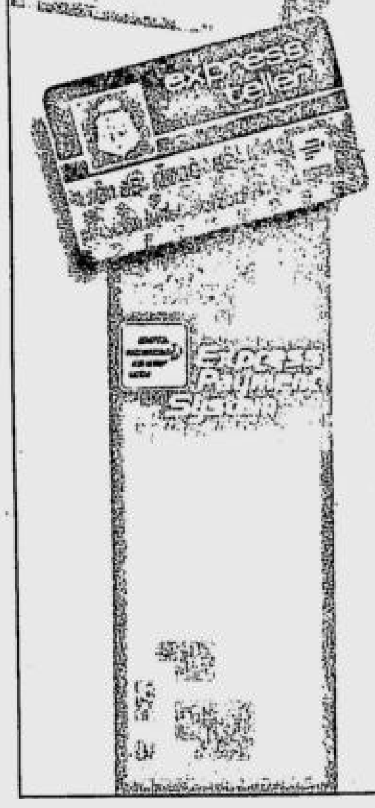
When we think about love we

> True love
> is a commitment,
> a choice and
> a responsibility.
> It is a most selfless
> act, a journey
> of two brave souls

IMITATIONS/ p.E8







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KITCHEN SHOWCASE
Prepare sumptuous meals with your daughter.
- LG Refrigerator GR - 342, 450.24 liters (15.9 cu.ft.)
- National Microwave Oven 5327 WF
- La Germania Gas Range with rangehood MP-957-21X

GAMES & AMUSEMENT SHOWCASE
Play cyber games with your son.
- Sony Playstation 2 w/ 4 CDs and transformer (Accessories : dance pad, gun, force reactor and dual shock)
- JVC Color TV 21P1P, 53.34 cm. (21")
- TV Rack

Only Express Teller's EPS lets you shop smart - no lining up to withdraw and you enjoy the FULL sale price without carrying cash.

PROMO MECHANICS

1. All BPI/BPI Family Bank Express Teller and BPI Direct ATM cardholders who use the EPS from February 5 to April 1, 2001 can join the promo.
2. Every P1,000 EPS purchase in a single receipt will qualify a cardholder to one (1) computer-generated raffle number.
3. Only a maximum of five (5) raffle numbers in a day will be assigned to an accountholder who used the EPS.
4. Prizes are as follows:
 • Daily Prizes - 3 winners everyday of P1,000 each
 • Grand Draw Prizes
 First Prize - Entertainment Showcase
 Second Prize - Kitchen Showcase
 Third Prize - Games and Amusement Showcase
5. For the Daily Draws, the following shall apply:
 5.1 Computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchases on a particular date are valid for that date only.
 5.2 An accountholder can win everyday, but only ONCE in each day's draw.
 5.3 Draws will be held at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City on the following dates:

Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
Feb. 5 to Feb 11	Feb. 14
Feb. 12 to Feb 18	Feb. 21
Feb. 19 to Feb. 25	Feb. 28
Feb. 26 to March 4	March 7
March 5 to March 11	March 14
March 12 to March 18	March 21
March 19 to March 25	March 28
March 26 to April 1	April 4

A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
 5.4 The P1,000 prize will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
6. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
 6.1 All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchases within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
 6.2 Grand Draw will be held on April 4, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
 6.3 An accountholder can only win once. If drawn more than once, he will get the prize with the higher value.
 6.4 All Grand Prize winners can claim their prizes at 15/F BPI Head Office Ayala Ave. Makati City. Just present your Express Teller ATM card and one (1) valid ID (driver's license, company ID, SSS ID).
 6.5 Prizes are not convertible to cash. All prizes are tax-free.
7. List of account numbers with corresponding computer- generated raffle numbers will be available at the following locations
 •BPI Main Branch, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City • BPI Family Bank Main Branch, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City •BPI Baguio Burnham Branch, Baguio City • BPI Cebu-Mango Branch, Cebu City
8. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Compete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
9. Unclaimed prizes after 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
10. All Express Teller/BPI Direct accounts that are closed/terminated, dormant, under litigation or garnished during the promo period are disqualified.
11. All employees of BPI Unibank, its advertising and PR agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified.
12. In case of dispute, the decision of BPI Unibank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

PLUS
You can also win ₱1,000 everyday!

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
BPI FAMILY BANK
BPI DIRECT

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0284 Series of 2001

1-800-10-MAIDS-4-U
The agency with this number has got it made.

GET A PLDT TOLL FREE NUMBER. TOLL PLDT FREE IN THE NAME OF BUSINESS. PLDT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PLDT TOLL-FREE CALL 171 OR FAX 1-800-10-800-PLDT OR E-MAIL PLDTD800@PLDT.COM.PH

ZENY Reyes, Margie Moran-Floirendo and Berna Lomotan

NEDY Tantoco, Gene Reyes, Sen. Blas Ople and Sonny Tanchanco

GOV. Josie dela Cruz and Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco Sr.

Club Bulakeño holds a grand ball

A CLUB for Bulakeños aiming to help the less fortunate was founded by Gene and Lydia Reyes 12 years ago.

The club has engaged in various charity and community projects since. An annual ball is held to raise funds for its projects.

This year, Rustan's Nedy Tantoco accepted a long-standing invitation to head Club Bulakeño, together with childhood friend Sonny Tanchanco.

Nedy's father, Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco, who was born in Malolos, gave his full support. He agreed to be the main sponsor of the charity ball and handle the souvenir program.

Proceeds from this year's ball will be used to purchase of beds for the Bulacan Provincial Hospital's pediatric wing; improvement of the Malolos Public Elementary School; free medical missions to the depressed areas of Bulacan; construction of a multipurpose center on land donated by Reyes, which will be used for livelihood projects and training programs.

The Westin Philippine Plaza Ballroom, "home" for the club's annual affair, was adorned with roses and hydrangeas, while the foyer was lined with *palmeras* festooned with votive candles.

Sen. Blas Ople, fondly called Ama ng Bulacan, and honorary chair of Club Bulakeño, arrived early with wife Susan. Gov. Josie dela Cruz, Rep. Vito Sarmiento and wife Eve, Vice Gov. and Ms Aurelio Plamenco, former governor Obet Pagdanganan, Mr. and Ms Enrique de los Santos, Malolos Mayor and Ms Restituto Roque, Guiguinto Mayor and Ms Ambrosio Cruz, Plaridel Mayor and Ms Jaime Vistan were seen arriving.

Guests dined on Hibachi Broiled Salmon, while the Philippine Madrigal Singers performed a *harana* for the first time in their illustrious career.

Gov. De la Cruz led the *rigodon de honor* with National Commission for Culture and the Arts chair Jaime Laya as her partner.

Also seen dancing were Rep. Sarmiento with wife Eve, Mon Tantoco with Evelyn Salvador, wife of Baliuag Mayor Rolando Salvador (Mon's wife Justa, club adviser, watched from the sidelines); Marilao Mayor Nonoy Duran and Sta. Maria Mayor Neneng Nicolas;

Gen. Sonny Yan and Margie Moran Floirendo, Dean Lydia Echauz and Dr. Ping Duran, Maridel Villavicencio and Mari Lacson, Col. Jun Cruz and wife Linda, Joey and Mabel Abano, Jun Valenton and Rica Thio, Danny Jacinto and Ana Tirol (lovely in her emerald green *terno*); Ernie and Fe Yu, Allan Tengco and his mother, Papal Awardee Amy Tengco, Jess Sarmiento and Lucy Wycoco;

Statuesque Ping Valencia and Patrick Jacinto (a stunning pair), John Gaddi and Baby Ortiz, wife of the Philippine National Red Cross governor; past club presidents, Mayor Bert Carating and Ofelia Trinidad, Oca and Fely Bautista, Tess Castro and husband Bert, Louie Ablaza and wife Mely (in outstanding Ben Farrales *terno* with peacock feathers);

Norman Catiis and wife Belle; Linda Cruz and husband George; Ben de Jesus and Vina Trinidad (a former club president); Boy Carlos and wife Baby; Berting Hermoso and Zeny Reyes; Berna Lomotan and Ogie Villamar (another for club president); Gene and Lydia Reyes; Sonny Tanchanco and Nedy Tantoco.

All female participants wore emerald-green *ternos* for the *rigodon*, green being the official color of the club. Choreographer Bujing Danao highlighted the dance by relating the story behind each segment of the *rigodon*: The first, the Saludo Real, portrays a young lady going for a stroll in the park one summer morning. The Zeta shows how she meets a young man and they fall in love.

In another number, "Shall We Dance?," also choreographed by Danao, a stellar lineup of ballroom-dancing aficionados burst upon the scene: John Gaddi and Marivic Tengco, Ogi Villamar and Rosette Guerrero, Manolo and Olive Villacorta, Boysie Villavicencio and Thelma Gana, Danny Ortega and Tereret Liboro, George Cruz and Linabelle Villarica, Dr. Jim Lozano and Dandy Gomez, Fil Hilario and Mae Oblefias, Dr. Manny Almelor and Beth Victoria, Edwin Enriquez and Dalah Pia, Albert and Mandy Castro, Reggie and Pilina Bondoc.

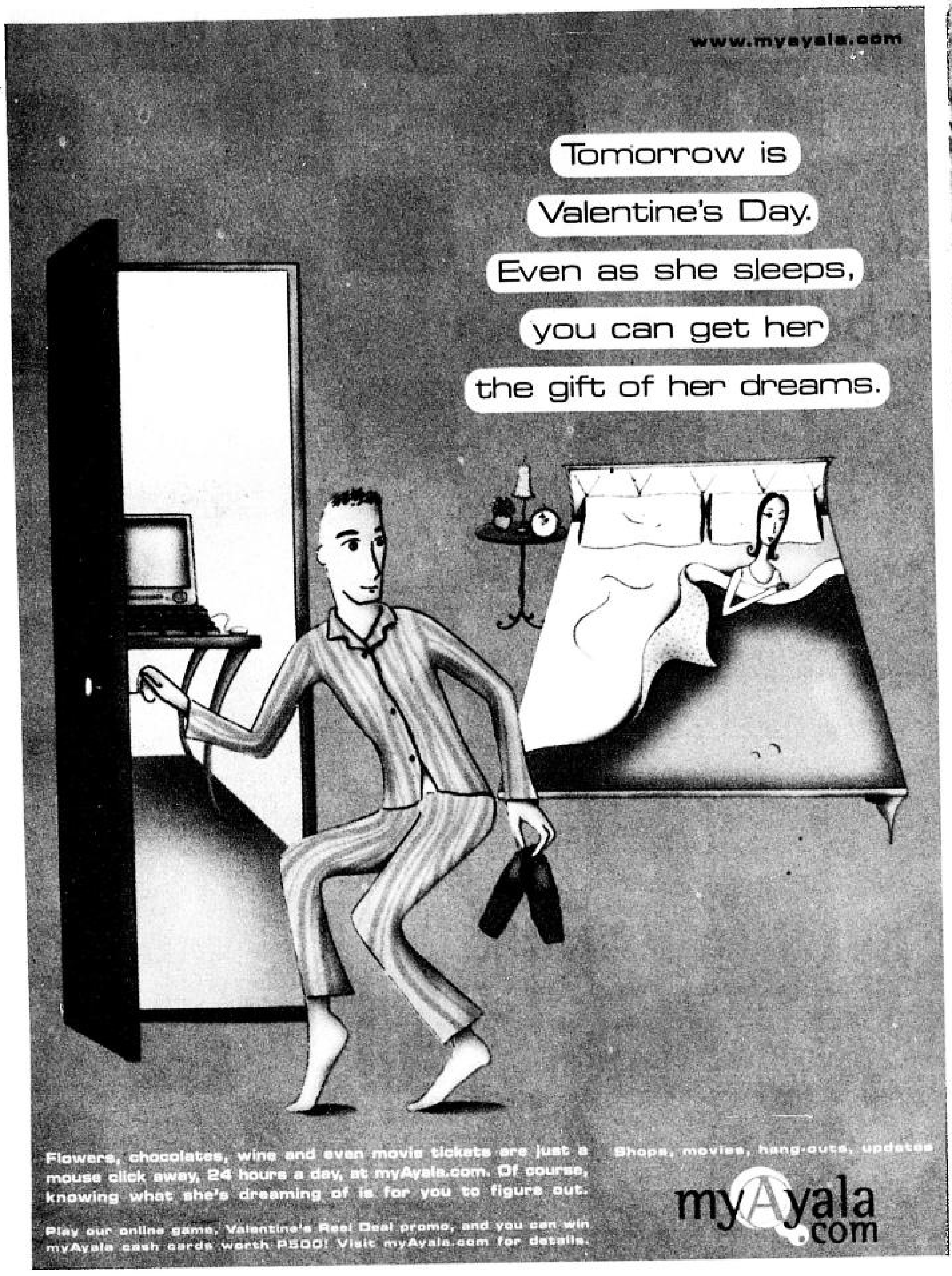
Finally, genuine quartz crystals (of 95-percent purity) were given to Ambassador Tantoco, Oca and Fely Bautista, Berna Lomotan, Lydia Reyes, Patrick Jacinto, Sonny and Nedy Tantoco, Pagcor (through Zeny Reyes), PCSO (through Ping Valencia), and the Tengco family from Baliuag, to recognize their extra-generous contributions.

OFELIA Trinidad, Jess Tanchanco, Mon Tantoco, Oscar Bautista and Justa Tantoco

SEN. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Ambassador Raul Goco and Gov. Tony Leviste

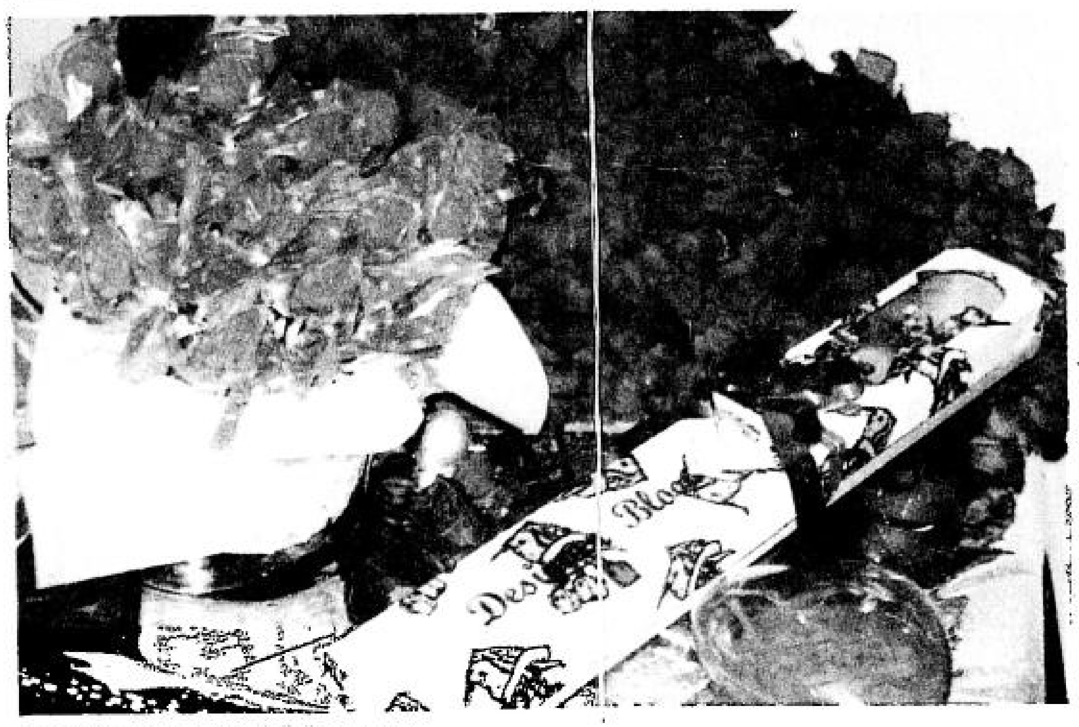
MAYOR Neneng Nicolas and Mayor Nonoy Duran

Maybe you should
give up writing
that love note-
HERSHEY'S
KISSES WITH ALMONDS
MILK CHOCOLATES



Flowers, chocolates, wine and even movie tickets are just a mouse click away, 24 hours a day, at myAyala.com. Of course, knowing what she's dreaming of is for you to figure out.

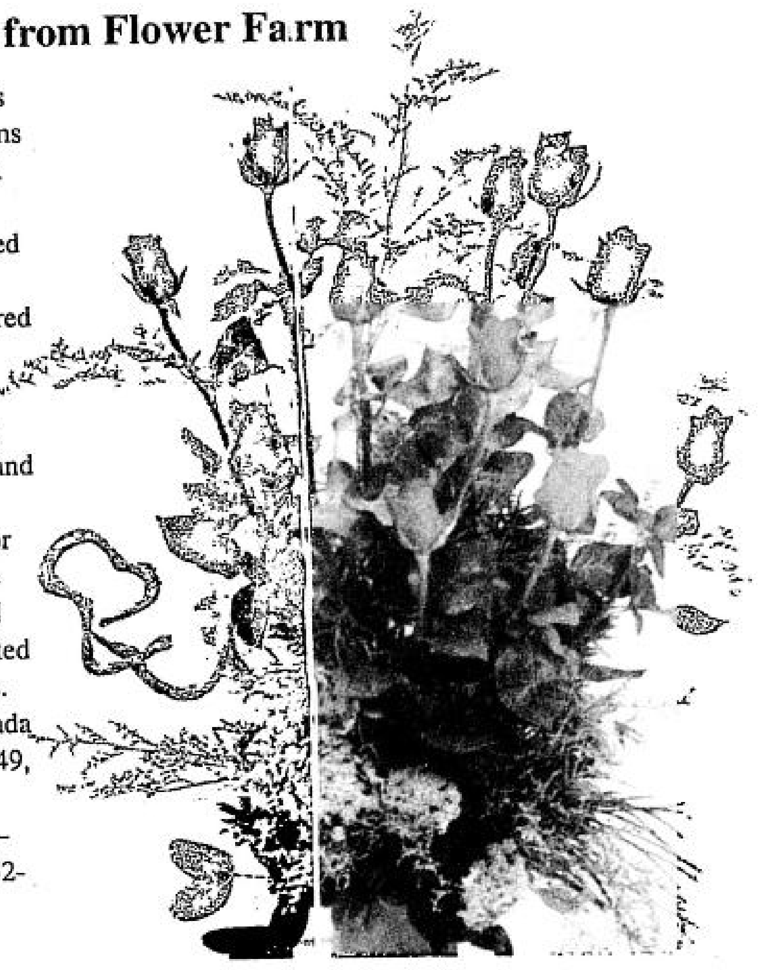
Play our online game, Valentine's Reel Deal promo, and you can win myAyala cash cards worth P500! Visit myAyala.com for details.



Lollipops and blooms

DESIGNER Blooms is a one-stop shop for romantics this Valentine's Day. It offers fresh, long-stemmed roses that come in attractive boxes tied with shiny, red bows. There will also be chocolate lollipops decked with bows. The Ayala Land management recently gave the shop a customer service award and an outstanding store operations award for its outlets in Glorietta in Makati and the Ayala Town Center in Alabang. The shop has also opened new outlets at SM Manila, Farmers' Plaza and Ali Mall in Cubao, and the Star Mall in Mandaluyong.

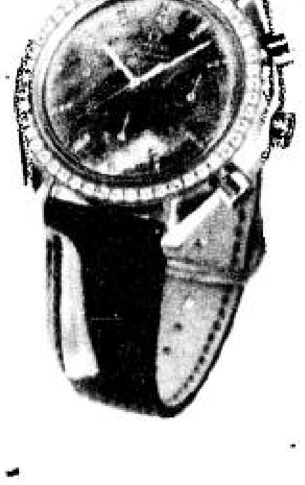
Roses and more from Flower Farm

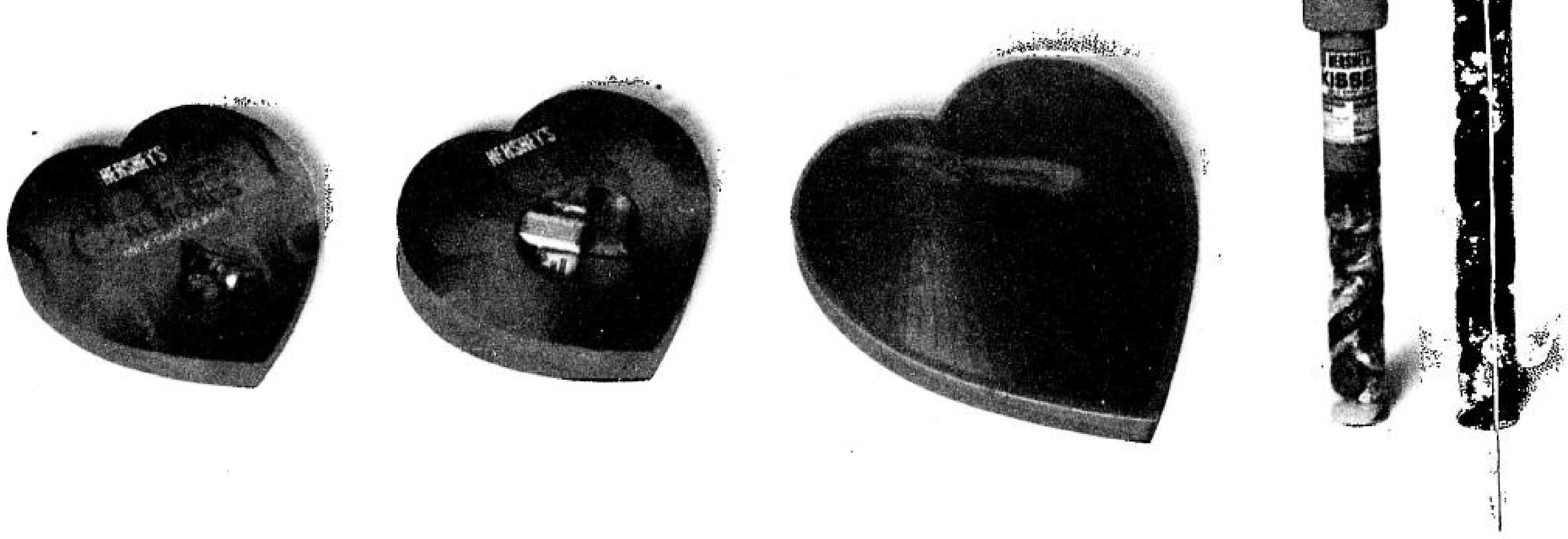


THE FLOWER Farm has several varieties of blooms to mark Valentine's Day. For the traditional rose, Flower Farm has imported large buds in orange, yellow, pink, white and red from the Netherlands. Gerberas and carnations are a fresh alternative to roses, coming in bright and pastel hues of yellow, pink, red and orange. For the more practical, there are potted stocks, potted mini gerberas and assorted varieties of potted herbs. Call 815-6665 to 68 (Rada Street, Makati); 633-7549, 635-0013, or –0093 (Ortigas); 809-4612 or –4609 (Alabang); and 752-7206 (Glorietta).

Diamond-studded Valentine's

THE OMEGA Speedmaster Automatic with diamonds is made for ladies who have expectations about the workings and functions of watches, but who do not want to surrender trendy feminine aesthetics. Omega's new line has a self-winding mechanical chronograph movement, Omega calibre 3220, rhodium-plated and with Me Geneva wave decor. The movement has a power reserve of 40 hours. The glistening bezel, studded with 49 diamonds, surrounds an elegant mother-of-pearl dial with large numerals and striking hour markers with colored Super Luminova inserts, available in silver-gray, white and light-blue. The leather straps match these fabulous colors. A fourth model has a black mother-of-pearl dial with diamond hour markers. A black leather strap enhances this version.




Give Hershey's®
Hearts and Canes this
Valentine's Day.

HERSHEY'S is CHOCOLATE

Available in all leading supermarkets nationwide.

Only Globe Handyphone gives you so many ways to connect

Send a clear picture of how you feel
Text Cards

babe

cherub

cutegirl

flowers

girlphone

lips

Love you!
loveyou

I LOVE You because...
luvcoz

luvsick

LOVE YOU!
luvu

My Love
mylove

Serenade them with
Globe Tones

I LOVE YOUR SMILE
keyword: iloveyur

I JUST CALLED TO SAY I LOVE YOU
keyword: ijstcld

COULD IT BE I'M FALLING IN LOVE
keyword: cuditbe

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND
keyword: gotfrnd2

COME ON OVER BABY
keyword: comeon

I LOVE YOU ALWAYS AND FOREVER
keyword: alwys4evr

HEAVEN'S WHAT I FEEL
keyword: watifeel

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW
keyword: seeclear

IT MIGHT BE YOU
keyword: mightbu

WHAT MATTERS MOST
keyword: watmatrs

TWO HEARTS
keyword: 2hearts

UNCHAINED MELODY
keyword: unchained

THE LOVE I LOST
keyword: lovelost

WHATEVER WE IMAGINE
keyword: weimagin

WHEN I SEE YOU SMILE
keyword: seeusmil

HEY
keyword: hey

Give them a lovely remind
GlobeIco

BE MY VALENTINE
bemyval

best kisser!
bestkiss

blooms

cherubs

date

girlh

HAPPY VALENTINE
hapy

heartb

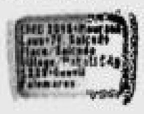
hea

iloveyou

I LOVE YOU
iluvu

Greeting Card Instructions:

a. Via InfoText:



1. After choosing your desired greeting card, key-in the following and send to 2356: CARD (code number + receiver's name + address +sender's name). All messages successfully sent will be charged.

2. You will receive a Text Message confirming your order.

REMINDER: Make sure you put a space between "CARD" and the code number. Put the "+" sign to separate the code number, receiver's name, address and sender's name. Use "/" in between location, street address, and city (do not put a space before and after "+" and "/" signs. Do not use the following symbols when keying-in your order:#,&,;,".

b. Via GlobeXplore:

FUN
MONEY
BUY/SELL

1. Go to your GlobeXplore menu and click on BUY/SELL.

Card Code?
2046 .

3. Type in the following:
   - -Card code of your chosen card and press OK
   - -Recipient's Name and press OK
   - -Recipient's delivery address* and press OK
   - -Sender's name and press OK
   - -Your Valentine's message and press OK

**Note: Put a "/" between the location, street address, and city. Do not put a space before and after the "/" sign.*

AUCTIONS
SPECIAL DEALS

2. Click on GLOBECARDS and press SEND CARD.

4. You will receive a Text Message confirming your order.

Rates	*Plan*	*PrePaid Plus*
Card	*P65.00*	*P70.00*

GlobeIcons Instructions:

a. Via InfoText:

1. After choosing your desired icon, type in the following and send to 2345:
For phone display: L (keyword) (0917+Globe Handyphone number) (dedication of up to 6 words)
For caller group: I (keyword) (0917+Globe Handyphone number) (dedication of up to 6 words)

b. Via GlobeXplore:

DOWNLOAD
FORWARD
SEARCH

1. Select the GlobeXplore menu and click Fun. Click on GlobeIcons and select Forward.

keyword:
bemyval

2. Choose whether you want to forward it as PHONE DISPLAY or CALLER GROUPS. Then type in the following: •Keyword of your desired icon and press OK • 7-digit Globe Handyphone number of the recipient and press OK • a short dedication and press OK

Rates	*Plan*	*PrePaid Plus*
Inquiry	*P2.00*	*P2.50*
Downloading & Forwarding	*P20.00*	*P25.00*

Note: You may use any handset to forward GlobeIcons. Just make sure it is sent to a Nokia 3210, 5110 (ver. 4.59 and up), 6110, 6150, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8810, 8850, 3310, 6210 and 9110. Nokia 3210, 3310 and 5110 can only accept phone displays.

c. Via WAP:

HEALTH
GAMES

1. Log-on to Globe's Hom down and click GLOBE

WELCOME
ENTER
REGISTER

2. Click on ENTER for cur For new users, click o and follow instruction a registered user. Reg users can type in the Globe Handyphone nu password to log-in.

Send ringtone
Send logo

3. Click on SEND LOGO, s and click Valentine.

Select:
[bemyval]
Preview

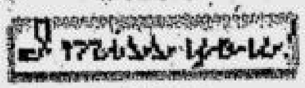
4. Click on SELECT and sc to your desired phone d Then choose PREVIEW.

5. Type in the Globe Hand number of the recipient SEND.

with your loved one this Valentine's Day!

er

ns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love

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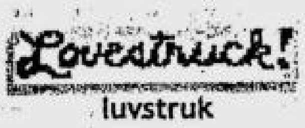

luvstruk

val

luvsun

rk

roses

hearts

arts2

Warm their hearts
Globe Valentine Cards

They show what a warm,
person you are—
someone I'm glad to know,
someone I'm very happy to have
my friend, someone who deserves
the very best that life can give.

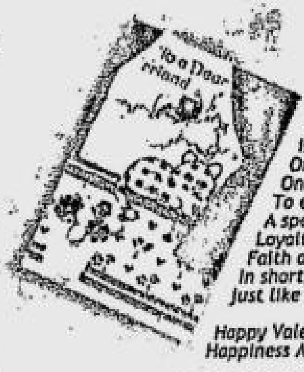
Have a Wonderful Valentine's Day

code: 2053

Filled this card
with friendly thoughts
And mailed it
out your way
Along with
special wishes
For an extra-happy day!

Happy Valentine's Day

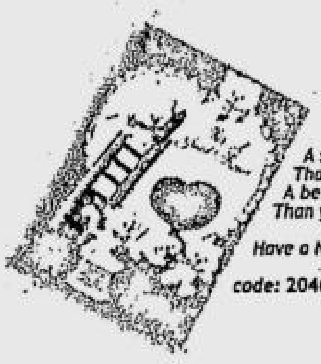
code: 2052



A special friend
Is a friend who shares
One who listens, one who cares
One who's quick to lend a hand
To ease a hurt, to understand—
A special friend is a blending of
Loyalty and cheer and love
Faith and trust and kindness, too
In short, it's someone
just like you!

Happy Valentine's Day
Happiness Always

code: 2049



A special Valentine to say
That there could never be
A better friend to anyone
Than you have been to me

Have a Nice Valentine's Day

code: 2046

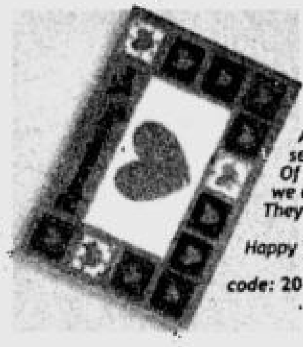
This Valentine's coming
especially to say
Whatever you do
have a very nice day,
Enjoy every minute
and when the
day's through
Hope nice things
keep happening
especially for you!

Happy Valentine's Day

code: 2055

Wherever you go,
Whatever you do,
Remember there's someone
Who really loves you!

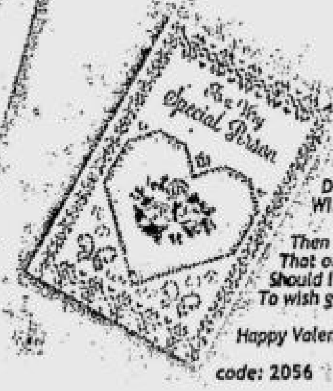
code: 2050



A Valentine remembrance
seems to be the nicest way
Of showing those
we care for most
They're thought about today

Happy Valentine's Day

code: 2047

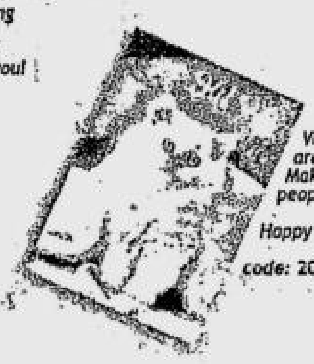


When someone's like you—
Very thoughtful and kind
Doing nice things so often
With others in mind...

Then it isn't surprising
That other folks, too
Should love any chance
To wish good things for you!

Happy Valentine's Day!

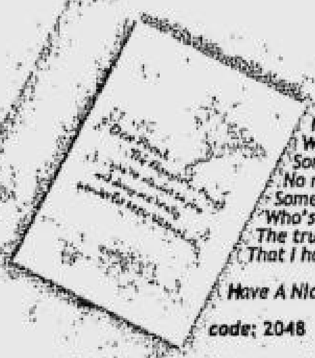
code: 2056



Valentine greetings
are for people who
Make life a lot brighter—
people like you!

Happy Valentine's Day

code: 2054



Now and then we meet a friend
Who's fine in every way—
Someone we like to be with
No matter what the day
Someone who's understanding
Who's always thoughtful, too—
The truly wonderful kind of friend
That I have found in you

Have A Nice Valentine's Day

code: 2048

Globe
HANDYPHONE

It's all in your hands

Hotline: 730-1000 / www.globe.com.ph

page. Scroll
ITERACTIVE.

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REGISTER
to become
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phone
and press

GlobeTones instructions:

a. Via InfoText:

1. After choosing your desired ringtone, key-in the following and send to 2345:
   N (keyword) (0917+ Globe Handyphone number) (dedication of up to 6 words)

b. Via GlobeXplore:

1. Select the GlobeXplore menu and click Fun. Click on GlobeTones and select Forward.

2. Type in the following: • keyword of your desired ringtone and press OK • 7-digit Globe Handyphone number (include 0917) of the recipient and press OK • a short dedication and press OK

Rates	*Plan*	*PrePaid Plus*
Inquiry	*P2.00*	*P2.50*
Downloading & Forwarding	*P20.00*	*P25.00*

Note: You may use any handset to forward GlobeTones. Just make sure that you send the ringtone to a Nokia 3210, 6110, 6150, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8810, 8850, 3310 and 6210.

c. Via WAP:

1. Log-on to Globe's Homepage. Scroll down and click GLOBEINTERACTIVE.

2. Click on ENTER for current users. For new users, click on REGISTER and follow instructions to become a registered user. Registered users can type in their 7-digit Globe Handyphone number and password to log-in.

Welcome,
Send ringtone
Send logo

3. Click on SEND RINGTONE. Then scroll down and click SPECIAL.

4. Click on SELECT and scroll down to your desired ringtone. Click TO and input the Globe Handyphone number of the recipient. Press SEND to forward. You will receive a confirmation via Text Message.

Text Cards instructions:

a. Via InfoText:

1

To download, type in: TC (keyword); send to 2301 then wait for reply; and select either show, save or discard.

2

To send or forward, type in: TC (keyword)(0917+Globe Handyphone number) (sender's name) (dedication of up to 6 words); and send to 2301. Wait for reply.

b. Via GlobeXplore Campus Pack:

1

GlobeXplore

Click Menu on your phone and scroll down to GlobeXplore Campus Pack.

2

GlobeIcons
GlobeTones

Click on Fun and select Picture Msg.

3

Categories
Forward

To send the Text Card to yourself, click on Download.

4

Categories
Download

To send a Text Card to a friend, click on Forward.

5

Type in the keyword of the Text Card, or click on Categories for other options.

6

Picture
message
received

You or your friend will receive the requested Text Card.

Rates	*Plan*	*PrePaid Plus*
Inquiry	*P2.00*	*P2.50*
Downloading	*P20.00*	*P25.00*

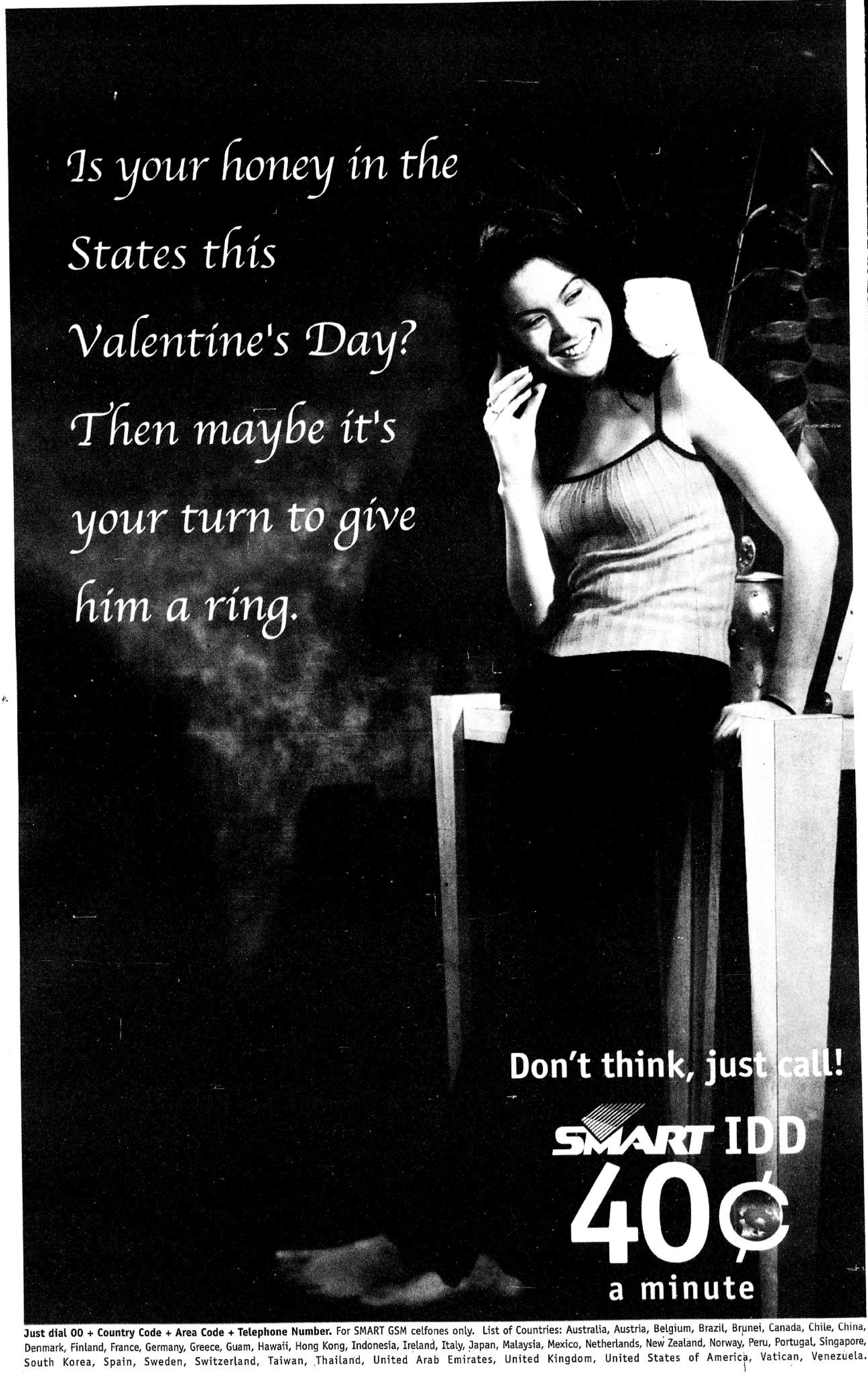
Note: You may use any handset to forward Text Cards. Just make sure that you send the icon to a Nokia 3210, 3310, 6210, 8210, 8250, 8850.

Log on to www.globeinteractive.com.ph for a complete list of text cards, tones, icons, and greeting cards.

In partnership with:

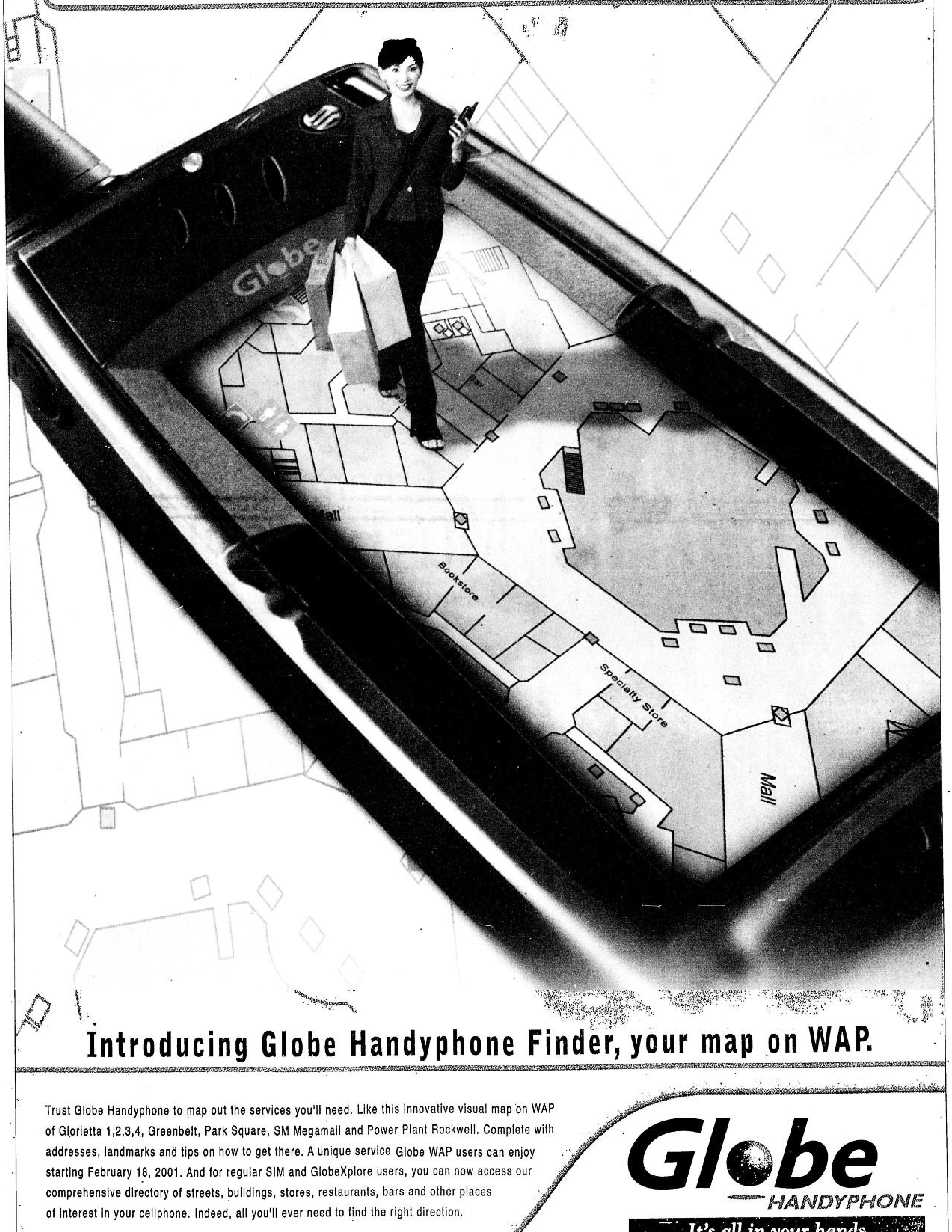
wsa
wireless services asia

FIESTA GREETINGS
says it best!


Is your honey in the States this Valentine's Day? Then maybe it's your turn to give him a ring.
Don't think, just call!
SMART IDD
40¢
a minute

Just dial 00 + Country Code + Area Code + Telephone Number. For SMART GSM celfones only. List of Countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guam, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vatican, Venezuela.

I've got a Globe Handyphone.
I've got a guide to get around.



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Trust Globe Handyphone to map out the services you'll need. Like this innovative visual map on WAP of Glorietta 1,2,3,4, Greenbelt, Park Square, SM Megamall and Power Plant Rockwell. Complete with addresses, landmarks and tips on how to get there. A unique service Globe WAP users can enjoy starting February 18, 2001. And for regular SIM and GlobeXplore users, you can now access our comprehensive directory of streets, buildings, stores, restaurants, bars and other places of interest in your cellphone. Indeed, all you'll ever need to find the right direction.

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Imitations of love

(From page E1)

think in terms of being loved. We work hard to make ourselves more lovable—more attractive, more successful, more famous, more competent. Advertisements make it appear that a beautiful face is lovable, a husky voice is appealing and a tanned complexion is sexy. Those who wear Gucci, own their own company, rub shoulders with the famous are perceived to be a better catch. Worrying how we measure up on these scales, we look for help from the cosmetic industry, work out in gyms, get a speech quick-fix, exchange business cards, and keep an inflated image. We waste time looking for the perfect one to love instead of creating perfect love.

People assume that to love is easy, that it is as natural as breathing. After making ourselves presentable and lovable, we assume that the other party will be capable of responding by loving, and that we are fully competent to love him, too. We look out for an object of love, and package ourselves to be an object of love, yet forgetting to cultivate the faculty and the capacity to love. There are people who are monotones and have no sense of pitch, or those who are blind and have no idea of colors. It is also possible for one to have lost his faculty to love as one has lost the faculty to hear, without being aware of it.

Love as exchange

In our age of materialism and consumerism, our appetite for buying is greatly increased. We buy all that we can afford to buy. Society operates on a mutually favorable exchange. The more money one has, the greater are one's demands. Sometimes people look at each other the same way.

When a man is successful and rich, he looks for a favorable exchange of his assets. And in the market place of man-woman relationships, the most sought-after attractive exchange is a pretty face with perfect teeth and a sexy body to boot. People go out on shopping trips looking for bargains. Girls who don't mind the absence of a noble intention or who don't care if they are mistresses are in some ways discounted goods. Women who know how much they are worth are less likely to be fooled.

And what do women want? My UP students asked several respondents the question, "Which would you prefer in a man—to be handsome or intelligent or loving?" Three-fourths of the girls answered they preferred men who were rich. And they were not joking. With their intelligence, I suppose, they don't need more intelligence. But being poor, as most UP students are, they are looking for a better deal.

Love that blinds

Of the many movie versions of the Titanic tragedy, my least favorite was the one where Leonardo Di Caprio was in the starring role. The high-tech visual effects could not drown out the disappointing message of the distorted meaning of love. In less than three days, chastity was lost without qualms, and unbridled lust, infidelity and revenge were somehow glorified in the name of love.

A recent research was done in the US on college students' perception of desirability of dating and marriage partners. The results showed that for both males and females, those perceived to be highly active sexually were perceived to be more desirable as dating partners but less desirable as marriage partners. Those perceived to be inactive sexually were perceived to be less desirable as dating partners but more desirable as marriage partners. It appears that dating and marriage are two different ball games. Dating has nothing to do with marriage.

Demons of love abound in our culture. True stories of crimes of passion are regularly reported in the news and shown on TV. Failed marriages, suicide attempts for unrequited love, broken homes, incest, multiple families and deception—they are all products of the misconceptions about love. Distorted love is love that blinds, deceives or manipulates—taken for granted and easily discarded.

True love

True love is a commitment, a choice and a responsibility. It is a most selfless act, a journey of two brave souls. It is something to be learned and practiced—with discipline, concentration and hard work. Rainer Maria Rilke wrote, "For one human being to love another, that is perhaps the most difficult of our tasks; the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation." I'm certain this love cannot be adequately expressed on Valentine's night. For wasn't it Antoine St.-Exupery who commented, "Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction."

E-mail the author at grace@usa.net and visit http://www.sunnybrook.net for past articles.

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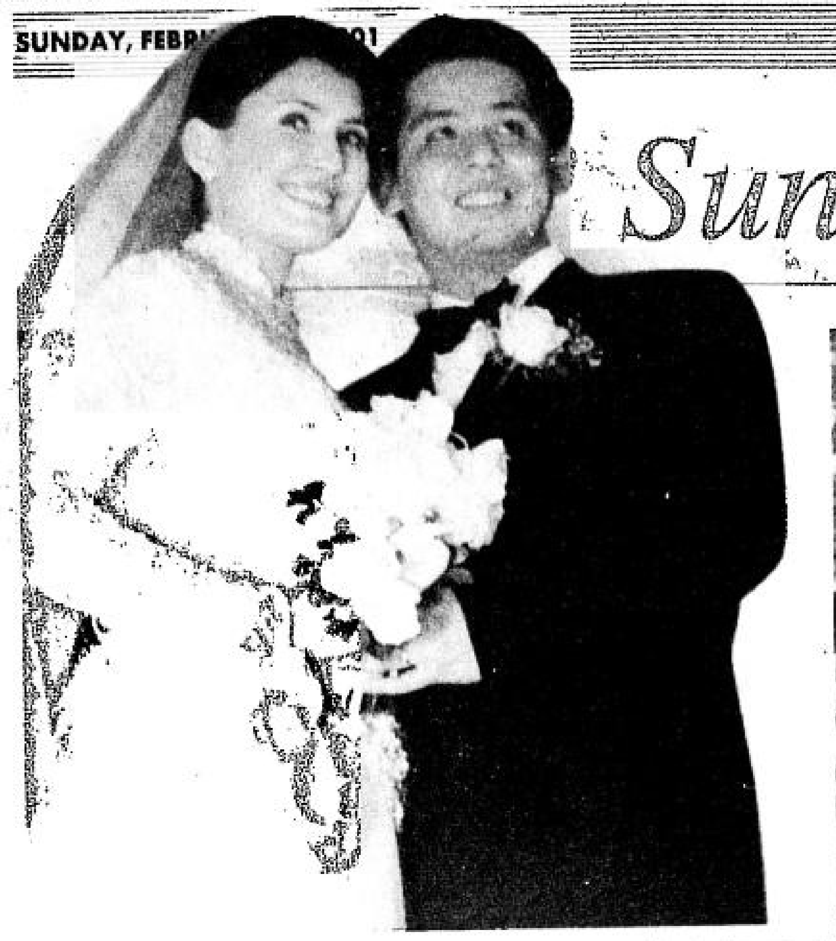
Sunday LIFESTYLE



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ROMUALDEZ-KITTILSTVEDT

Fullest blessing on fullest love

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

BACK in 1995, then new lawyer Ferdinand Martin Romualdez was visiting Cebu City on business. In one of the boutiques in the city, he saw a photo of a beautiful Cebuana. Fascinated by her exquisite porcelain features, he asked his friends who she was and was told that her name was Yedda Marie Kittilstvedt, Cebu's top fashion model.

They finally met, not exactly by chance, at the house of Yedda's grandfather, noted lawyer and labor leader Democrito Mendoza. When Yedda went to Manila to compete in the 1996 Bb. Pilipinas contest, Martin became a regular caller at the Kittilstvedt residence in the city.

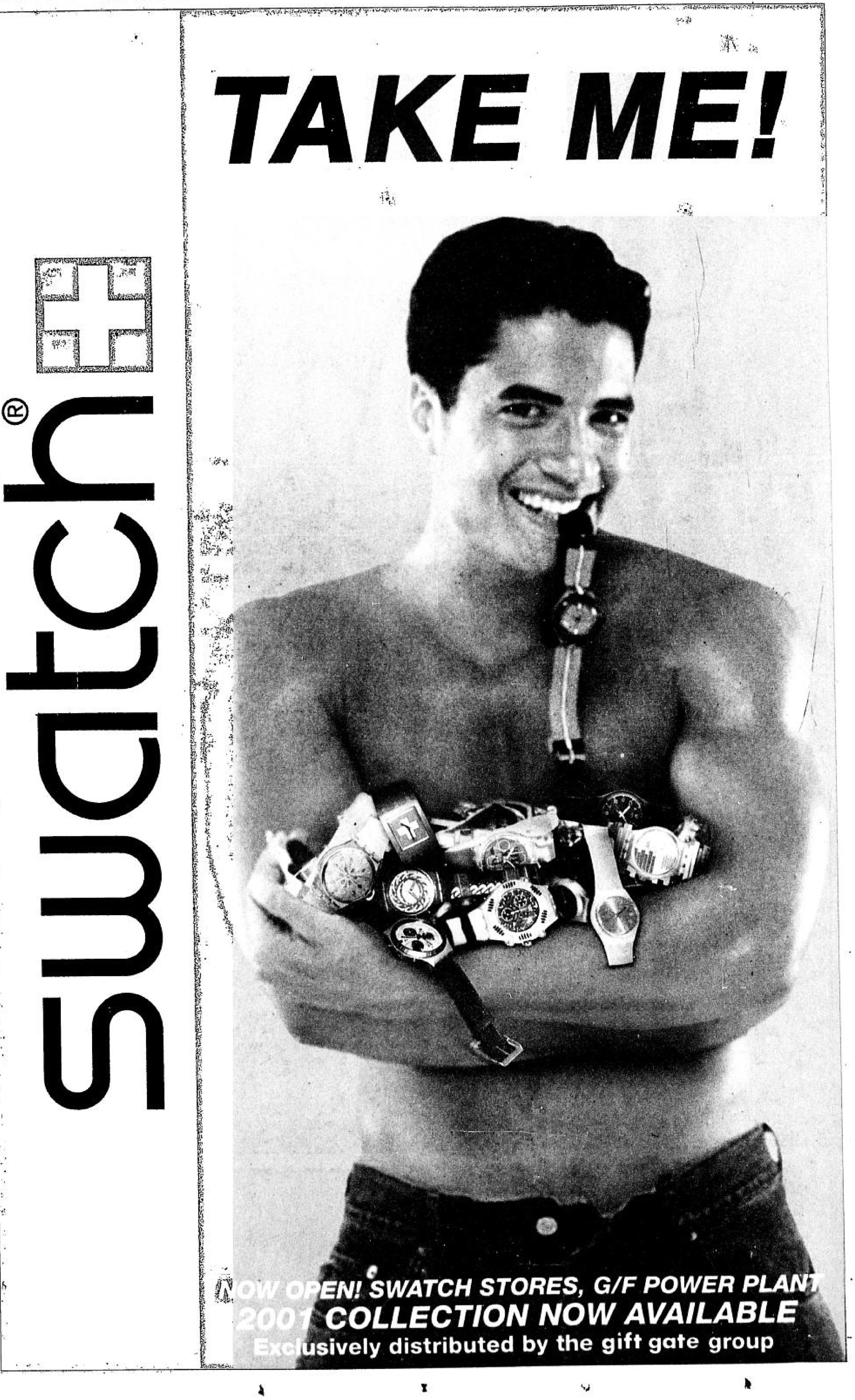
"Even then, he was very persistent," Yedda recalls. When she won the Bb. Pilipinas-International title and went to Kanazawa, Japan for the Miss International Pageant, the enamored young barrister followed her and became her most avid supporter. Martin's persistence paid off when soon after, he and Yedda became inseparable and the most watchable young twosome.

In November 1999, the lovebirds quietly flew to Hong Kong where they were married in civil rites. A top secret affair, only their immediate families witnessed the ceremony. Finally, last Feb. 4, Martin and Yedda officially sealed their union in elegant rites solemnized by Leyte Archbishop Pedro Dean at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati. Yedda looked every inch a real-life princess in her Grace Kelly-inspired champagne gown by Inno Sotto.

Martin is one of three sons of ambassador and former Leyte Gov. Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez and the former Juliet Gomez. His two brothers are Philip, who is married to PDI president Alexandra "Sandy" Prieto-Romualdez (the couple recently welcomed their first baby, named little Luca), and Daniel, an architect and interior designer based in New York whose work has been featured in prestigious publications like Vogue and Town and Country. The groom's only sister, Marean, is married to Thomas Pompidou, a grandson of the former president of France.

Yedda is the middle child among six children of Norwegian-Filipino engineer Joseph Kittilstvedt and the former Maria Yedda Mendoza of Cebu. She studied at the Assumption Convent in Manila and St. Theresa's College Cebu and obtained her nursing degree at Cebu

FULLEST/ p.F4



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FE Sala Villarica presented the Queen City Chamber Ballet at Ayala Center's Theater for the Performing Arts. Those who went and were caught in the magic of "Les Sylphides" are clamoring for a repeat performance. The music is by Chopin of course. It really started as a series of piano compositions specially orchestrated in 1908 when Michel Fokine first devised the choreography for what he titled "Chopiniana," when he presented the work at the Russian Imperial Ballet in St. Petersburg.

A year later, in 1909, it became "Les Sylphides" when Serge Diaghileff presented the Ballets Russes in Paris as a tribute to the "ballets blancs" of the 19th century, in particular Marie Taglioni's "La Sylphide" staged in 1832.

Fokine's original choreography was used for the Cebu presentation and Fe made sure all the other elements were present, too. Flowing white tutus, a bare stage bathed in well-contrived moonlight and the request that no applause be given between the opening nocturne, the brief lilting waltzes, the mazurkas and the prelude, the dam broke with the last notes of the concluding *valse brillante*.

"Les Sylphides" has no story but the one you choose to imagine as you see the sylphs flitting about, tiny wings flapping, in a reverie that you wish would never end. Dancing the lead roles were **Eleanor Rafanan** and **Mariejan Pestaño**, with **Alfonso Mosqueda** as the sole male dancer.

The sylphs were **Thea Pala** and **Sheila Lendio**, who did some of the solo dances, **Katrina** and **Kiara Cortes**, **Dulce Marie Romea**, **Marianne Trinidad**, **Linda Rivera**, **Melonie Patalinghug**, **Marijo Jamora**, **Josephine Quiñanola**, **Angeli San Juan**, **Eva Entero**.

BIÑAN foodfest at Cebu Plaza Hotel—Aissa de la Cruz, Nelia Neri, Erma Cuizon, Lydia Castillo, Mayen Tan, Mila Espina and Flor Ynclino

There was another full-length ballet presented that evening—"Snow White" set to the music of Edward Grieg with choreography by **Dom Orejudos**. Getting more applause than anyone else in the cast was **Ryan Vasquez** in the role of the Prince. This was his debut as a ballet dancer after Fe discovered him from among the performers of the University of the Visayas in the Cebuano *zarzuela* "Tirana" last October. Good-looking, manly and very talented, Bryan accepted the challenge and Fe is simply delighted with his prowess.

INGRID Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes talk Romantic music.

"With just one month to rehearse," she said to the crowd of well-wishers who went backstage to congratulate her. Among them was **Lygia Ibañez** whose school, St. Benedict's, was at the top of the ballet's presenters (other presenters were Solid Construction, Pacific Audio Video and Mr. and Ms **Vince Lozada**.)

Just as we've said in earlier columns, 2001 will be a busy year for Fe since she's planning a grand golden jubilee for Ballet Center, the school of classic dance she established 50 years ago.

Romantic music

The same week Fe was evoking romantic dance, her niece **Ingrid Sala Santamaria** was evoking romantic music. Ms Santamaria was featured along with **Reynaldo Reyes**, the eminent Filipino pianist based in Maryland, in an afternoon musicale at the PBS Concert Hall. They performed three concerti from the Romantic Period.

The audience was enthralled listening to Schumann's Concerto in A Minor, Grieg's Concerto in A Minor and Tschaikovsky's immortal Concerto No. 1 in B Flat Minor. They also shared their insights in a forum. After Cebu, Ingrid and Reynaldo were off to Manila and Davao to repeat the performance. They say they may do it again, with a new program, come July or August.

After that, Ingrid oversaw the rehearsals of the Cebu-based Peace Philarmonic of the Philippines. The group is under the aegis of the Sala Foundation. Also this year, it is under the special patronage of San Miguel Corp.

The performance they gave at the esplanade in front of the Sto. Niño Basilica on a Saturday night was fantastic. **Rodelio Flores** conducted the PPP, **Reydon Encinares** was soloist in Arutunian's Trumpet Concerto, Ingrid and **Jonathan Coo** were soloists in Saint-Saens' "Carnival of Animals," and the Guadalupe Children's choir conducted by **Nadia Retuya** sang "Tanging Yaman" by Manoling Francisco, and "Sa Ugoy Ng Duyan" by National Artist Lucio San Pedro.

It was a concert specially designed for children, as there was popular broadcaster **Sam Costanilla** to explain the repertoire which also included the overture to "The Barber of Seville" by Rossini, "On the Beautiful Blue Danube" and "Tristch-Trastch Polka" by Johann Strauss, and highlights from "The Sound of Music."

Now Ingrid and the PPP are even deeper into rehearsals for concerts on Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort, and on Feb. 24 at 4 p.m. at the Cebu Capitol. Ingrid will be the soloist of the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto, **Redentor Romero** will conduct, and Cathay Pacific is flying in Chinese violinist **Jue Yao** to play solo in the Mendelssohn Concerto. Proceeds from the ticket sales will help the Adopt-a-Musician project of the PPP.

Tagalog foodfest

THE SPIRIT well nourished, let's go over to the palate. **Lydia Castillo** presided over a week-long food festival of Southern Tagalog cuisine at Café Tartanilla of the Cebu Plaza Hotel. The fest had a special accent on the food of Biñan, Laguna, from where Lydia hails. Many of the dishes served and raved about are to be found in her book, "In My Basket," copies of which are selling fast.

The Plaza, led by GM **Salvador Cornelio** and PR manager **Aissa de la Cruz**, gave Lydia a royal welcome, as did her many friends in the Cebu media, who met her for an exclusive *merienda* and formed quite a gaggle at the opening of the festival. Is there a sequel to the book and the foodfest at the Plaza? The answers are forthcoming. Keep posted.

ELEANOR Rafanan and Mariejan Pestaño play the leads in "Les Sylphides."

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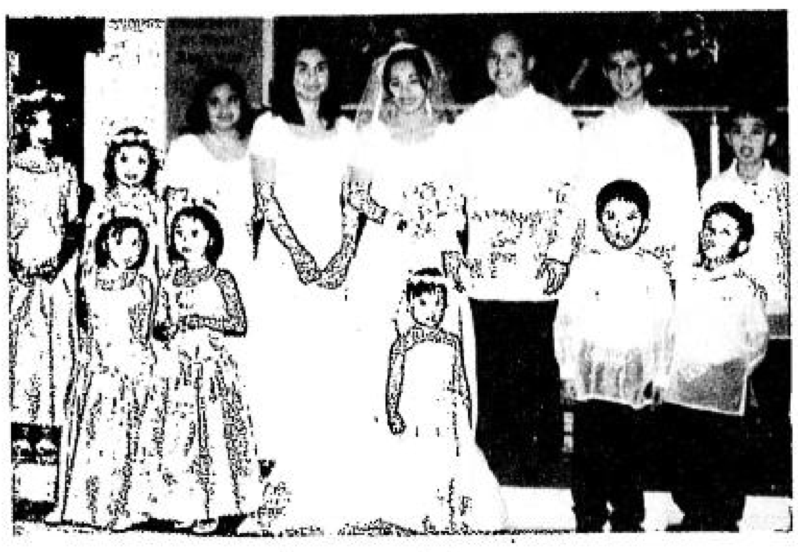
REYES-ROSALES

Rustico "Jonjon" Reyes Jr. and **Ruby Rosales** exchanged vows recently at the Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish Church. The simple ceremony was followed by a reception at the secluded, garden-enclosed Orosa function hall inside the Balara Filter in Quezon City.

Shown flanking the couple were the bride's parents, **Jaime** and **Amelia Rosales** and the groom's mother, **Rita Reyes** and brother, **Marc Anthony Reyes**.

The entourage was composed of (clockwise) **Ilsa C. Aranas, Anne Clarisse Baga, Connie Mae Reyes, Jane Magsino, Jeffrey Aniceto, Ronnel E. Rosales, Ryan Rosales, Ray Vincent Villanueva, Angela Loraine Nonesa, Teresa Flores** and **Junea Matencio.**



DE GUZMAN-FERIDO

Ernesto A. de Guzman Jr., son of **Ernesto Sr.** and **Belen de Guzman**, and **Nelia P. Ferido,** daughter of **Romeo** and **Leonila Ferido** will tie the knot on April 7 in a garden wedding ceremony at the Skyline Riverbend Hotel in Marikina City.

HERRERA-HALAL

Allan A. Herrera and **Clarissa S. Halal** tied the knot recently at St. Andrew's Parish in La Huerta, Parañaque City. Receptions were simultaneously held at The Coconut Palace, CCP Complex and at the residence of Mr. and Ms **Policarpio M. Herrera** in Tambo, Balagbag, Indang, Cavite.

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Ally McBeal Theme	ALLYMC	I Love You Always		Love is All Around	FOURWED	Someday	SUMDAY
Always Something There	SUMTINDER	Forever	LUVULWYS	Love is All That Matters	LUVMATR	Songbird	SONGBIRD
Breakfast at Tiffany's	TIFFANYS	I Try	ITRY	Love Me For A Reason	LUV4RISN	Too Close	2CLOSE
Breakout	BRKOUT	Iris	IRIS	Mister Love	MRLOVE	Truly, Madly, Deeply	TRULYMAD
Genie In a Bottle	GENIE	Kiss From a Rose	KISFROSE	Remember Me	REMBERME	You Needed Me	UNIDME
Head Over Heels	HEDOVRHIL	Kiss Me	KISSME	Save A Prayer	SAVPRYR	You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'	LOSTLOVN

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RECEPTION under the trees at the Romualdez residence

MAGNOLIA-STREWN fondant wedding cake

Fullest blessing on fullest love

(From page F1)

Doctor's College.

Packed church

Rare for most weddings, the church was packed when Martin and Yedda made their marital vows. Tony Padilla's floral settings in the church set the elegant tone of the affair, and Flower World carried it masterfully at the dinner reception held at the Romualdez residence which is conveniently located a few meters from Santuario de San Antonio.

The Manila Chamber Choir sang hymns and romantic ballads at the nuptial rites, while Bernie Pasamba's String Ensemble and the Onda Latina Band entertained the guests at the reception. Martin Nievera, the groom's favorite singer, thrilled the newlyweds and their friends by performing some of his hits. Likewise obliging with a song was Juan Miguel Ongsiako who blushed profusely when Leica Carpo wiped the sweat off his face. Their friends loved it.

The humongous fondant cake designed by Yedda herself and executed by Hený Sison ran the entire length of a buffet table. It was strewn with fresh and candied magnolias, the bride's favorite flowers. Via Mare, personally supervised by Glenda Barretto, catered the dinner with seamless efficiency, while Brides Maids & Co. coordinated the wedding details.

The giveaways were very special, personally picked by the newlyweds themselves. The ladies received an exquisitely wrapped box containing four lipsticks in Yedda's favorite shades. She explains, "Each color represents a memorable place that Martin and I have visited. Red is for Paris, nude is for Amanpulo, mauve for Florence and pink is for Hong Kong."

Unlike in most weddings where only the ladies get souvenirs, the gentlemen also went home with mementos. For their male friends, the couple gave away soap—in lemon scent and the other peppermint. Lemon for Martin and peppermint for his lovely bride.

Wedding mix

The wedding entourage was a mix of Manila, Leyte and Cebu dignitaries. Principal sponsors were former first lady Imelda Marcos, society diva Imelda Cojuangco, grand dame Chito Madrigal-Collantes, top Cebu socialite Amparito Lhuillier, jeweler Mariquita Yeung and the bride's aunts, Dr. Carmen Velez-Ting, Perla Luna and Rita Soriano.

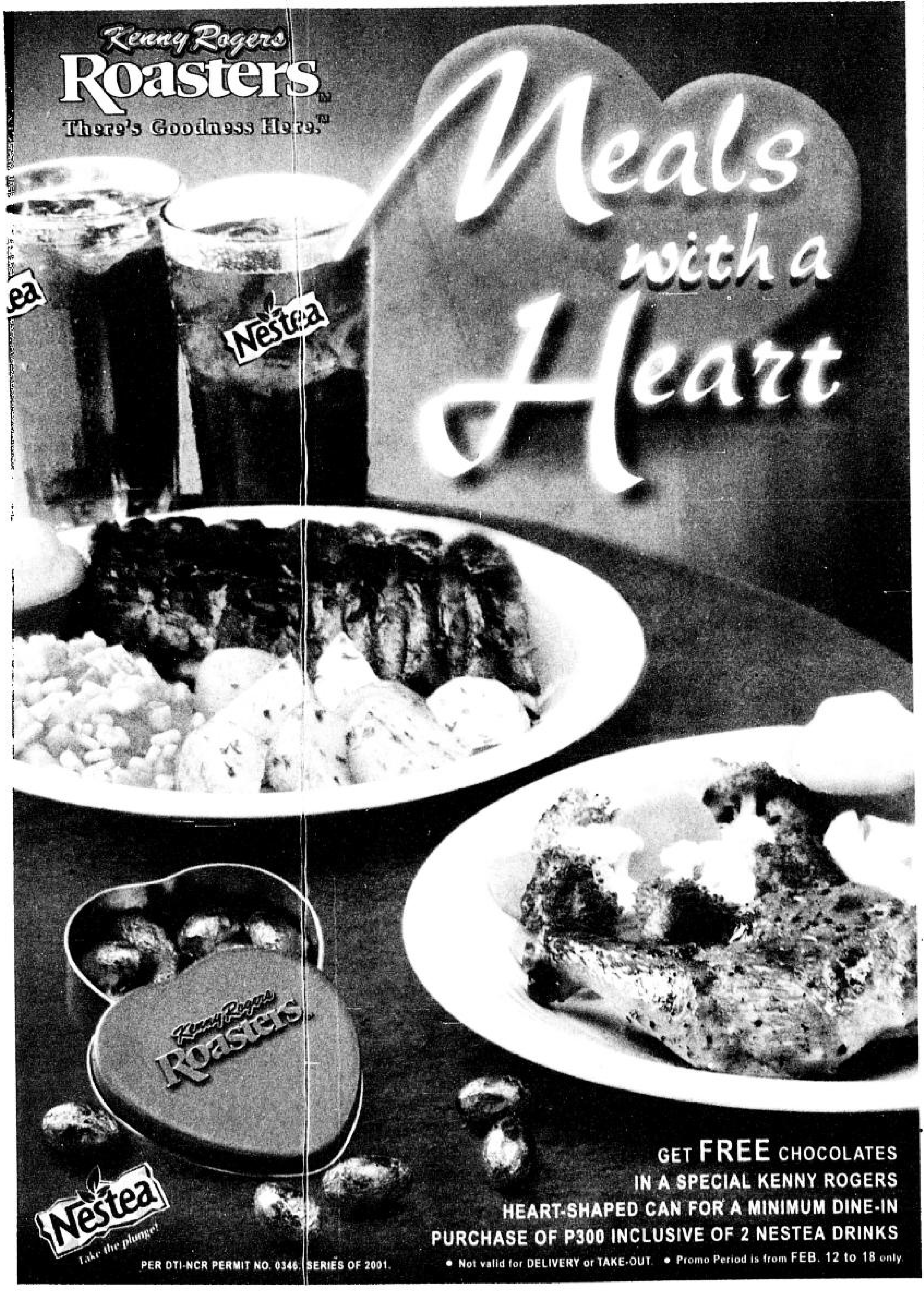
Their equally distinguished male counterparts were Cebu Rep. Eddie Gullas, Veterans Bank chair Col. Emmanuel de Ocampo, the bride's uncles, lawyer Francisco Villaruz and Jerry Lerma, publishing taipan's son Enrique Yap, businessman Enrique Luy and Equitable Bank chair Peter Go Pailan.

The groom's brothers, Philip and Daniel, were the best men, while

FULLEST/ p.F6

WITH THE BRIDE'S parents, Joseph and Maria Yedda Kittilstvedt

WITH THE GROOM'S parents, Juliet and Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez



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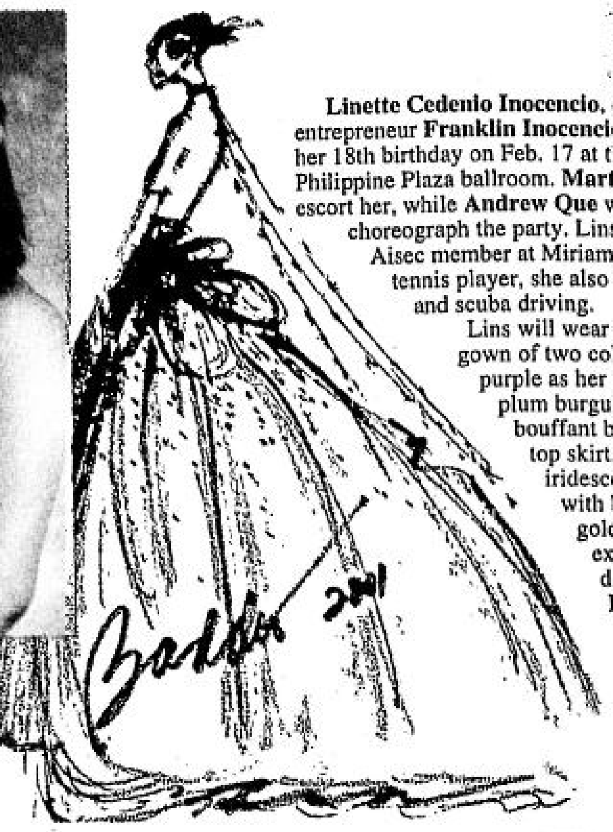
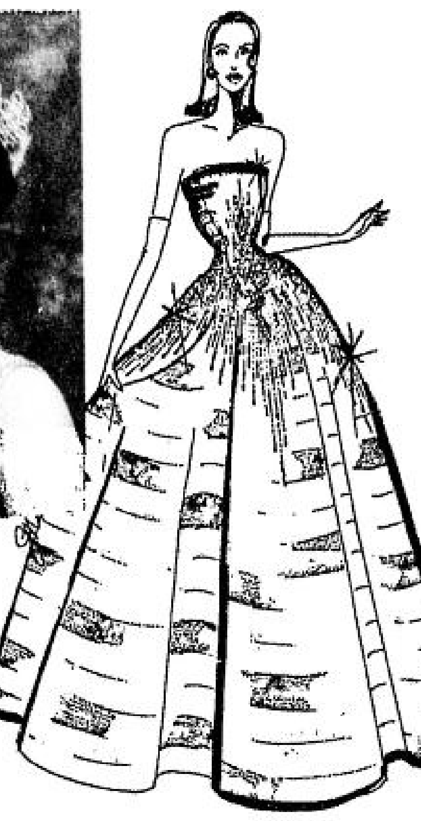


Linette Cedenio Inocencio, eldest daughter of entrepreneur **Franklin Inocencio**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Feb. 17 at the Westin Philippine Plaza ballroom. **Martin Calasin** will escort her, while **Andrew Que** will direct and choreograph the party. Lins is a freshman and Aisec member at Miriam College. A varsity tennis player, she also loves jet-skiing and scuba driving.

Lins will wear a serpentine-cut gown of two colors—imperial purple as her basic gown and plum burgundy for her bouffant bustle detachable top skirt. It is made of iridescent taffeta, scattered with black, silver and gold caviar beads, executed and designed by **Eddie Baddeo.**

Angelica Macaraeg, daughter of **Teddy** and **Mayeth Macaraeg**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Feb. 24 at Aberdeen Court, QC. She will be escorted by **Jeffrey Sia.**



Cathy Manlapaz, daughter of **Federico** and **Amelita Manlapaz**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Feb. 17 at the Lou-is Restaurant in Balanga, Bataan. She will wear a strapless Galatea creation by designers **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez**, in melting shades of sky blue, aqua, teal and lavender. Silver-corded lace handpainted in the same hues is appliquéd at the waist adorned with sunray beadwork.

Cathy is a legal management sophomore at the University of Santo Tomas.

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	Bear2		Bear18		Heart4		Hearts
	Bear3		Bear21		Heart5	**Plants**	Frose1
	Bear4		Bear22		Heart6		Frose2
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Fullest blessing on fullest love

(From page F4)

Yedda's sisters Melanie and Lily (married to Mandaluyong Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez's son) were maid of honor and matron of honor, respectively. The bride's two other sisters, Lisa and Josephine, and cousin Abigail Mendoza were bridesmaids, and Martin's nephew Martin Manotoc (a.k.a. Bench model Borgy) and cousin Jed Gomez, along with Yedda's only brother Ray Kito, were the groomsmen.

Rounding out the entourage were Marean Pompidou and investment banker Michael Meagher (candle sponsors), Sandy Romualdez and Thomas Pompidou (veil), Yedda's best friend Frances de la Serna-Quisumbing and Cebu designer Mario Colmenares (cord). The little attendants were Ilocos Norte Gov. Bongbong Marcos' sons Simon and Alessandro as ring bearer and bible bearer; Franco Quisumbing, coin bearer; and Vica Gonzalez, Tiela Gaerlan and Allyssa Nisce, flower girls. Martin and Yedda, whose beautiful romance is by itself a long and never-ending honeymoon, plan to take time off for a romantic Mediterranean cruise in June. ("Near summer," Yedda says, "when it's not too cold anymore.")

In his nuptial blessing, Archbishop Dean prayed, "Holy Father, may Your fullest blessing come upon Martin and Yedda so that they may together rejoice in Your gift of married love. Keep them close to You always and may their love for each other proclaim to all the world their faith in You."

To these inspiring words, we can only add, "And dear Lord, please bless Martin and Yedda soon with a playmate for their delightful baby boy Andrew Julian."

THE NEWLYWEDS with Archbishop Pedro Dean

WITH THE GROOM'S family: (from left) brother-in-law Thomas Pompidou with Yedda and Martin's son Andrew Julian, sister Marean Pompidou, brother Daniel, mom Juliet, dad Kokoy, sister-in-law Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, brother Philip and Michael Meagher

WITH THE BRIDE'S family: (front row, from left) Ms Francis Bongsil with the couple's son Andrew Julian, grandfather Democrito Mendoza, dad Joseph, niece Vica Gonzalez, mom Yedda; (back row) cousin Abigail Mendoza, sisters Josephine, Lisa, Lily and Melanie and brother Ray Kito

Bridal fair gives romantic lining to month of hearts

MANDARIN Oriental's geomancer Joseph Chau

(From page F8)

adds.

Fairgoers will be treated to concerts, previews of unique repertoires for the church ceremony and the wedding reception. Performing are the Ateneo Glee Club, Philo Music Ensemble and the Bernie Pasamba String Ensemble at 10-10:45 a.m., 12:30-1 p.m. and 4-5 p.m., respectively.

Event organizer Gigi Bautista says surprises await the first 100 brides who register. They will be given special bridal planner directories which contain a comprehensive directory of wedding suppliers, a "fertilization" chart dating back to the Ching Dynasty to help determine the gender of one's future baby, as well as helpful information on the various details needed in planning a wedding. She adds that couples who confirm their wedding reception at Mandarin Oriental from the day of the fair until Feb. 25 will receive a package of wedding perks and benefits.

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A SAMPLE of theme table set-up

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Bridal fair gives romantic lining to month of hearts

By Maria Cristina G. Santos

A FAMILY OF FASHION DESIGNERS. Malu Veloso (third from left) with her children Letlet (center) and Joey

MUSHY as it may sound, there could be no other time of the year for couples in love to plan every detail of what would be the most important day in their lives—their wedding day—than the month of hearts.

"Perfect Moments 3," a special bridal exhibit organized by Mandarin Oriental Manila with Events by Gigi Bautista and Associates, is set to delight altar-bound couples on Feb. 18, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., at the hotel's Grand Ballroom and Captain's Bar.

Offering all the drama of a dream wedding, the bridal fair features over 70 exhibitors from various fields showcasing the finest line of wedding products and services—bridal specialty shops, event planners and organizers, cake designers, fashion designers, florists, novelty gifts and souvenir shops, home furniture and accessories shops, invitations and stationery shops, jewelers, musicians and entertainers, photo and video studios and wine stores.

The one-day event goes beyond the usual bridal fairs as Mandarin Oriental's geomancer, Joseph Chau, flies in from Hong Kong to discuss the metaphysical aspects of maintaining harmony and balance in a marriage. In his 2 p.m. talk, he is also expected to give tips on how to design a home, the kinds and color of furniture that would work best, what to buy or avoid to enhance fortune and good health, etc.

The hotel will also give a preview of its theme wedding banquets set amid the romance and splendor of the Grand Ballroom.

The fair culminates with "Velosos: A Return to Romance," a unique fashion show of real-life brides modeling the creations of the Veloso family of fashion designers—Malu Veloso and her children Letlet and Joey—at 7 p.m.

To be directed by Raymond Villanueva, the show also features ensembles for an entire wedding entourage. It carries the romantic theme of the season—soft, feminine, exquisitely accented with lace, intricately embroidered with small dainty flowers and fine beading.

"My mom has been so consistent that her styles never change. She has stuck to the 'Veloso look'—elegant, feminine and timeless—that we were so impressed we carried it in our own designs later on," Letlet says.

Letlet recalls how her mom has greatly influenced her. "I remember mom making us little dresses with small embroidered flowers and butterflies. Those designs implied to us that girls have to look feminine and loud colors were not at all for women," she says.

Indeed, the Velosos' couture designs project unspeakable allure, designed in beautiful coordinates of delicate but sweet hues of champagne, lilac, pale pink, strawberry, pistachio, sunset yellow, sienna and pale periwinkle blue.

"This year, I'm pushing the colors pink, yellow gold, different shades of green and orange. Enough of blue. The past three years, most brides opted for blue. Enough of it, please," Malu says.

Their sensual statement comes in the form of body-fitting gowns with open necklines—sexy without necessarily baring too much skin.

"We don't like our gowns to be too sexy by showing a lot of skin—low backs, plunging necklines—especially now that some churches have become strict about these things," Letlet says.

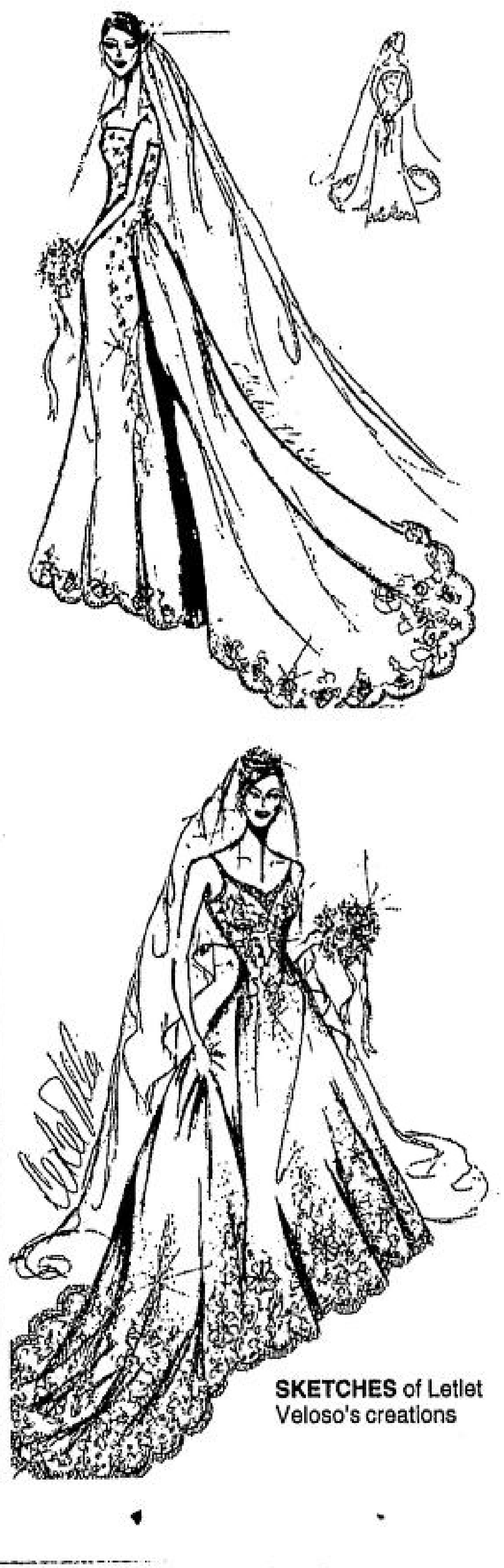
Malu, who is an advocate for *piña,* says she likes doing gowns made of the fabric but in modern styles. *Piña* is such a beautiful fabric and I'd like to use it more often," she adds. Other much-loved fabrics she uses for her collection include chiffon, shantung, dupioni silks and taffetas.

For the bridesmaid series, sophisticated silhouettes without fanciness will be emphasized. For flower girls, there will be bows, petticoats and layers of organza skirts. Opening new ideas on the stereotyped look of the mothers and *ninangs,* the Velosos deviate from the usual ecru by executing gowns in shades of golden champagne, silver and sunset yellow.

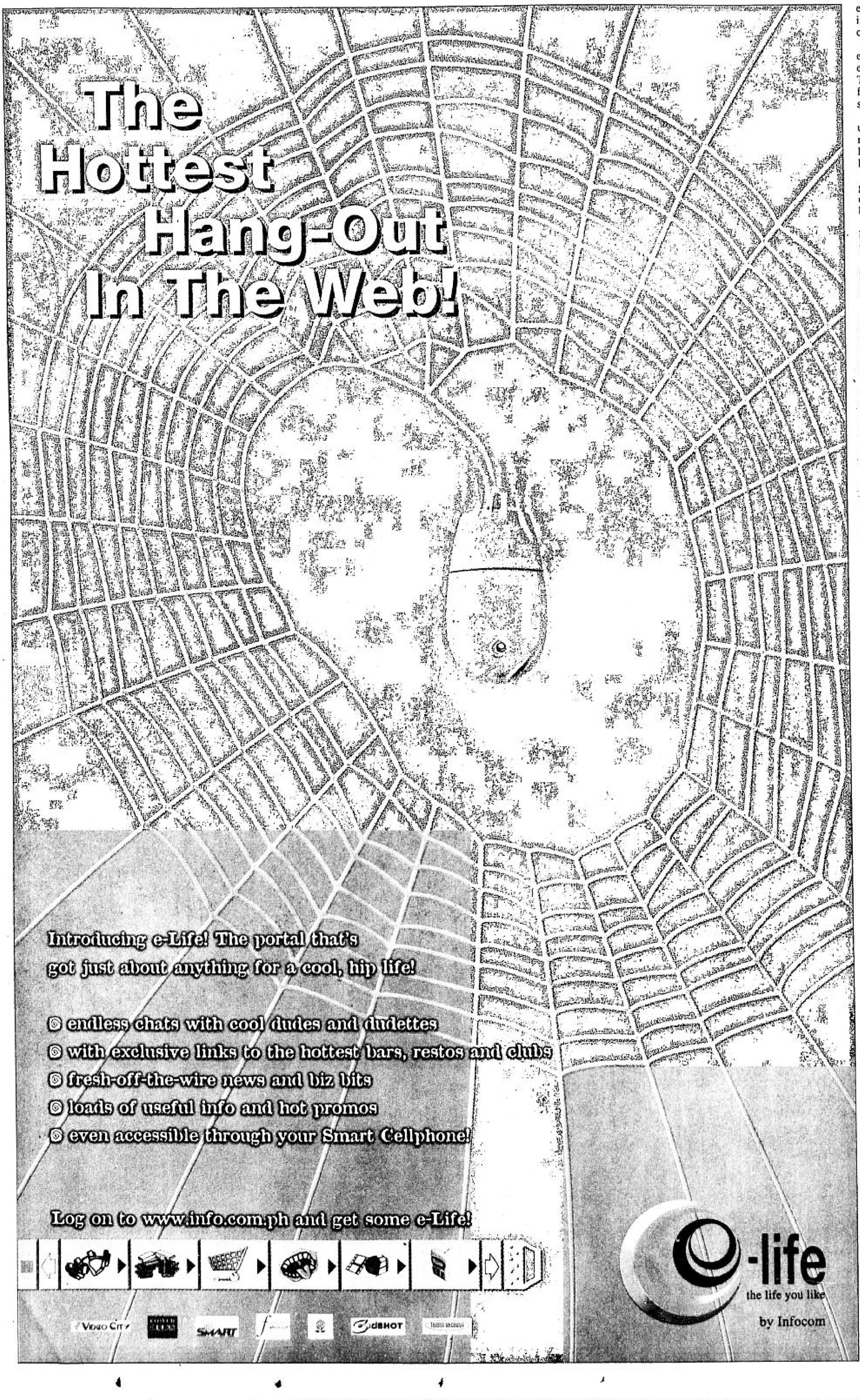
Joey brings in his expertise in architecture as he makes sure the groom makes a dashing escort to the pretty bride with his classic beige *piña,* pale lime and periwinkle barongs. "I use a lot of geometric lines and I combine it with very fine embroidery. It has a very classic style that grooms can wear it over and over again, not just for the wedding day," he says.

Like his sisters, Joey admits that he, too, was influenced by his mom. "Up to now, every time I do my designs, I consult Mom. If she doesn't approve of it, I don't push through with it," he

BRIDAL/ p.F7



SKETCHES of Letlet Veloso's creations



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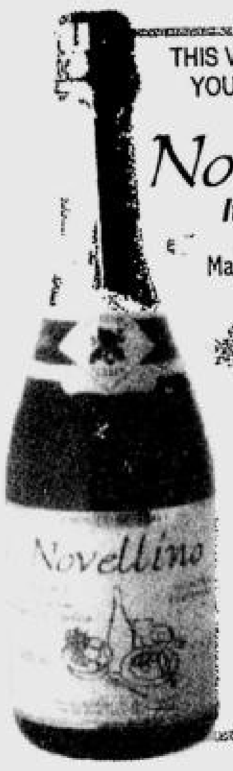
Sunday LIFESTYLE

BOOTS Anson Roa

Why I am an ex-future 'senadora'

I might have been the right candidate but at the wrong time and the wrong side of the fence

Story on page G7



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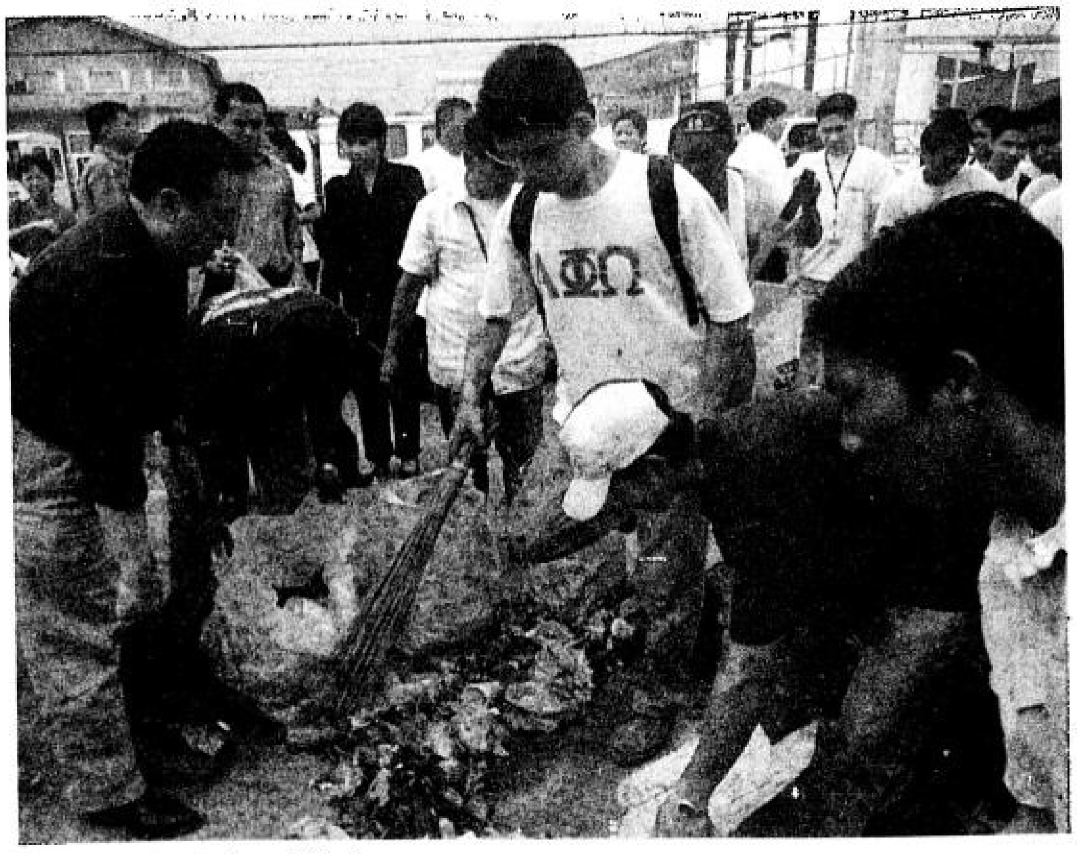

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Gordon's way: Tourism through volunteerism

By Constantino C. Tejero

NEW Secretary of Tourism Richard Gordon must be on the right track.

Only a few days after taking over the department, he started putting into action his idea of "culture of tourism through volunteerism." This involves calling on volunteers to clean up the mess that Metro Manila has become.

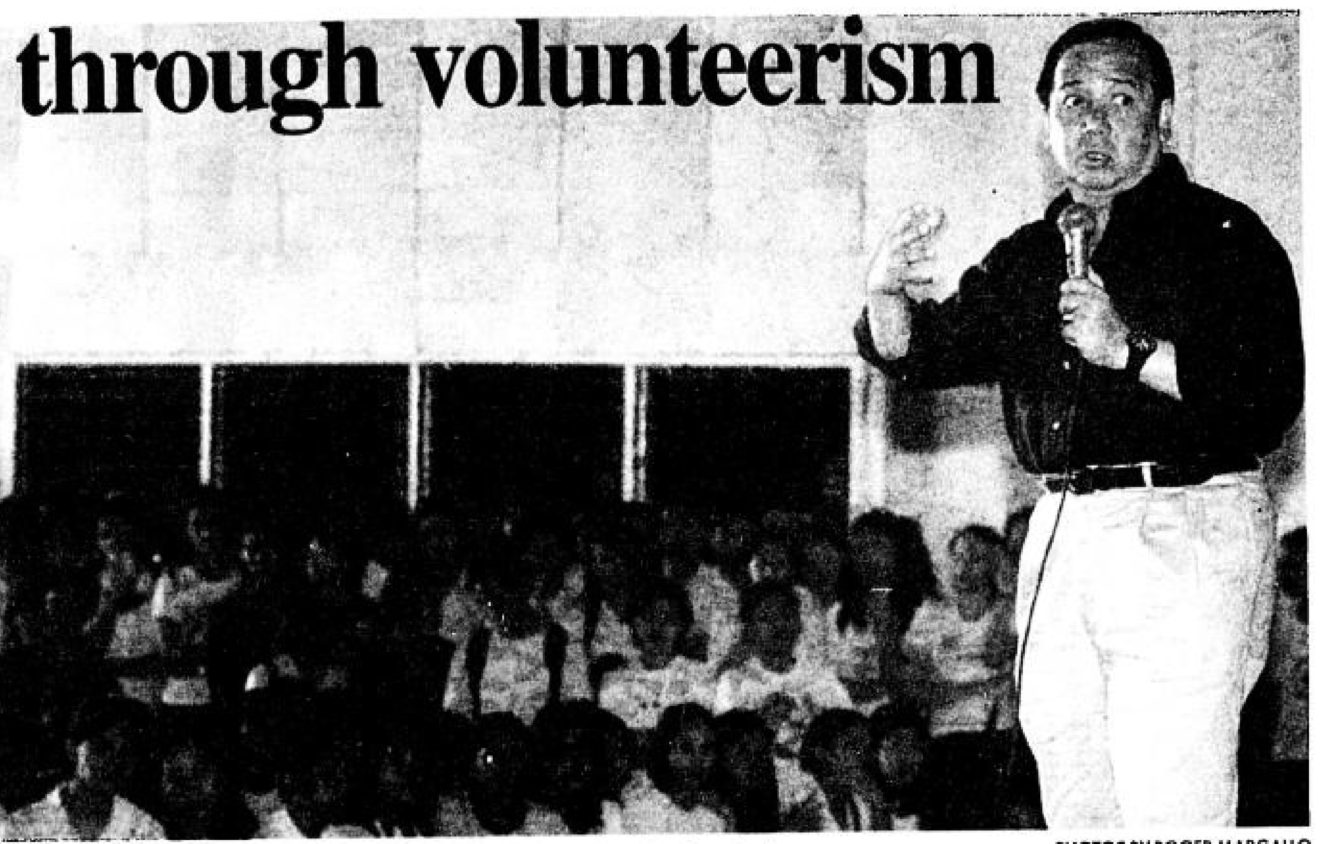
There is now about 120,000 tons of uncollected garbage littering the streets and *esteros* of the metropolis, and surely no tourist would put these sights on his or her itinerary. It's only common sense, even instinctive, that to attract visitors one must first tidy up one's house and backyard.

Early last week, the Department of Tourism launched its volunteers cleanup drive. We saw this coming, of course, considering the doctrine of cleanliness Gordon had espoused as mayor of Olongapo City and later chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

One Monday morning, PATTS students led by their teachers scooped up rubble and rubbish to make Manila clean and attractive to tourists again

Though now thrust into the national arena, the man has not lost the folksy tenor of his program. This was evident in the slogan writ large on a banner during the cleanup drive around the domestic airport last Feb. 5: "*Magwalis, maglinis para bisita ay di mainis.*"

At around 8 a.m., some 4,000 students and employees of the Philippine Air Transportation Training School started gathering at the school's quadrangle. Almost two hours later, Gordon and other tourism officials arrived, followed shortly by Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad, then Metro Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.



TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon drives PATTS students to the streets.

PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

After some speeches, the students were dispersed in groups to the airport vicinity, joined by the officials and several Metro aides. Each group was given yellow plastic bags, brooms, spades, with some of the garbage bags still bearing that old slogan "*Bawal ang tamad sa* Olongapo" from the early 1990s.

Toiling in the heat

Still in their uniforms of white shirts and dark blue pants, with several having thoughtfully put on improvised plastic aprons, the PATTS students led by their teachers started toiling in the intense heat of day. Some scooped up rubble and rubbish with spades, others uprooted weeds from canals, still others pulled out bits of plastic from crevices of rocks, while a few TV guys ran around videotaping the proceedings.

One teacher showed his boys how to sweep the pavement even without brooms. He started gathering dry coconut fronds from the ground, bound them together with electrical wire he picked up from the rubble, and voila! it was a broom. Then, half in jest, he announced that anyone who had no sweat on his brow would be considered absent.

One boy gingerly lifted from the muck a wet limp old hanky. Another boy strung candy wrappers on a wire, while still another skewered them on a barbecue stick. They looked like schoolchildren playing with gaily colored objects.

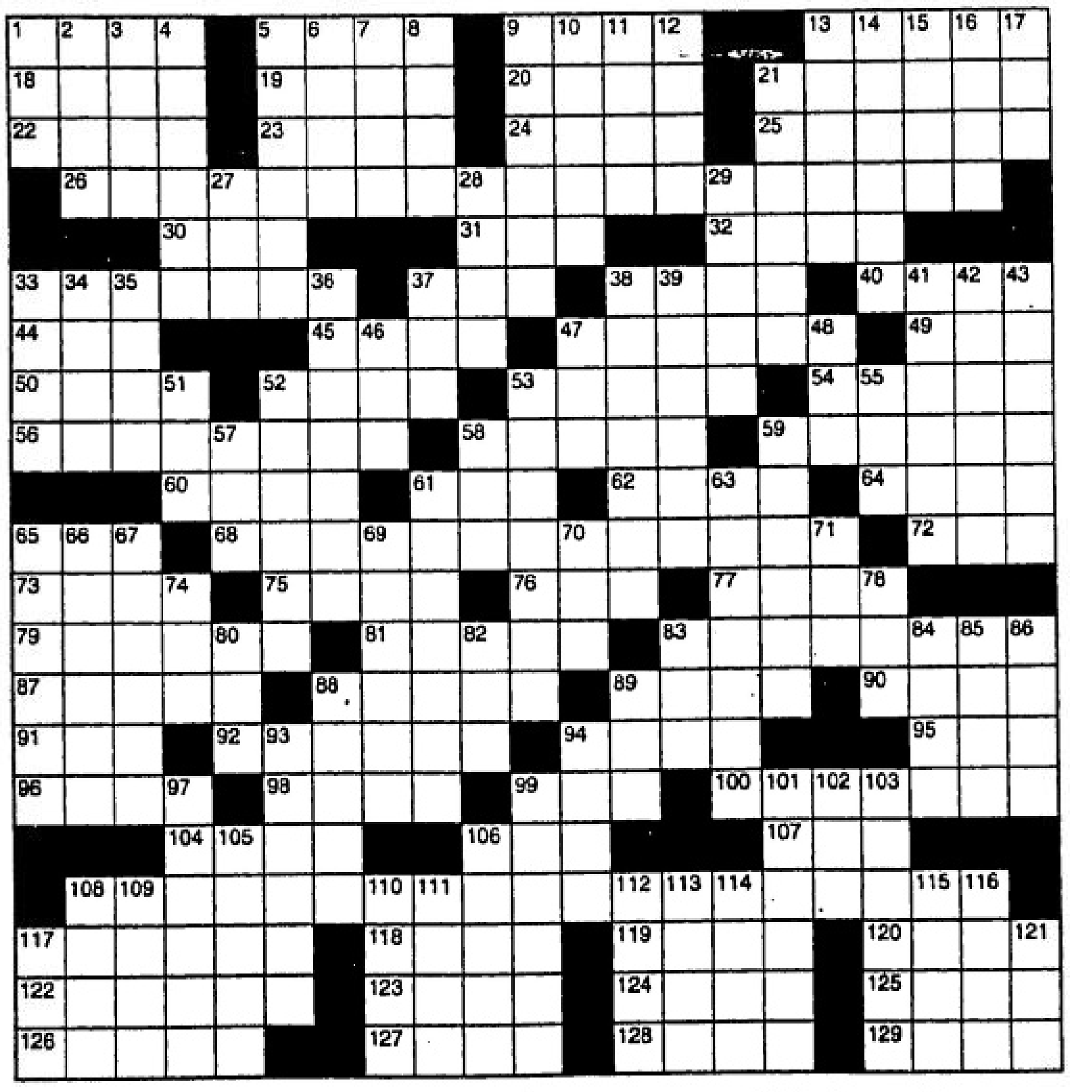
Toward noon, the toiling students had spread out, from the roads and canals around the domestic airport to the commercial center of Parañaque City. We overheard one group planning to go to Roxas Boulevard.

A few who were left behind slumped by the roadside, wilting in the blinding light of high noon, or had cool blasts of pearl shakes in large cups.

These are our future pilots, airplane technicians, airport engineers and maintenance crew members whose fervent hope is to bring in the tourists safely.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

CLONES



ACROSS

1 News bit
5 Billboard
9 Request an encore
13 Flying Pan?
18 Praise passionately
19 Singer Guthrie
20 Top-notch
21 Pit
22 "— It Up" ('73 hit)
23 A roaring success?
24 Nary a soul
25 Actress Andress
26 Start of a remark by Laurence J. Peter
30 Unfashionable
31 Castilian cry
32 "— and shine!"
33 Part 2 of remark
37 "Golden Girl" McClanahan
38 Read quickly
40 Spellbound
44 Generation
45 McGregor of "Trainspotting"
47 Company
49 Hot off the press
50 Mirth
52 Tennis legend
53 Kanga's creator
54 Crafter's need
56 Anderson's "Tea and —"
58 Shucks
59 "Beagle" passenger
60 — Spumante
61 Lout
62 "State Fair" state
64 Etta of the comics
65 Commercials
68 Part 3 of remark
72 Actor Fernando
73 Learning method
75 Grant or Elwes
76 Youngster
77 Emulated Pinocchio
79 Winter wear
81 Milo of "Ulysses"
83 Malamutes and huskies
87 Poe crow
88 More owlish
89 Coat material
90 Singer Amos
91 Relished the rigatoni
92 Ullman or Gold
94 Flicka's foot
95 Chum
96 Harper of "Tender Mercies"
98 Adequate
99 Understanding
100 Part 4 of remark
104 Lug
106 Actress Zadora
107 TV's "Have — Will Travel"
108 End of remark
117 Infantry action
118 Cheeseboard choice
119 Landed
120 Bearing
122 Like Corn Belt soil
123 Congenial
124 — list
125 Beige
126 "The Threepenny Opera" star
127 Antlered animal
128 Out-of-this-world org.
129 Meat cut

DOWN

1 April initials
2 "Cheerio!"
3 Sinister
4 Wine variety
5 Greet the general
6 Rainbow goddess
7 Whipped-cream serving
8 Hendryx or Gaye
9 Wicked thing?
10 At large
11 — May Wong
12 Jury member
13 Knitting stitches
14 Less demanding
15 Part of Micronesia
16 Colleague of 101 Down
17 Rug type
21 Like a Vermont village
27 "What?"
28 It may be common
29 Rub out
33 Packs groceries
34 "The — Dachshund" ('66 film)
35 Swarm (with)
36 New York university
37 — Dawn Chong
38 Made mucky
39 Faultfinder
41 Response
42 Clothing category
43 Jacksonian bill
46 Kid's query
47 Hodges of baseball
48 Loser's locale
51 Antipollution grp.
52 Storm
53 Winter wear
55 Joan Van —
57 Lava particles
58 "Bali —"
59 '73 Elton John hit
61 Ancient epic
63 Prosperous
65 Genesis peak
66 Contribute
67 Ranges
69 Beethoven symphony
70 Air safety org.
71 Nugent or Knight
74 Poetic preposition
78 Banned pesticide
80 Picnic pest
82 "Yo!"
83 — Canals
84 Klutz's cry
85 Mardi —
86 Farm feature
88 Rouse
89 Finished first
93 Act like the Earth
94 "— Wave" ('63 hit)
97 Comic Kaye
99 "Trees" poet
101 Author Christie
102 Word with fruit or Stanley
103 Crown covering
105 Florida city
106 Locale
108 Knight time
109 Muscat's nation
110 Be inclined
111 Magnus or McClurg
112 "Laugh-In" name
113 Literary pseudonym
114 Pine for
115 Puerto —
116 Garr of "Mr. Mom"
117 "Silent" president
121 Sister

ANSWER ON PAGE G7

Why I am an ex-future 'senadora'

(From page G7)

with genuine offers to help via calendars, posters, ideas and volunteer work. It was clear there were no strings attached to their goodwill. A cousin and her friends who are confirmed mahjong-a-holics vowed the supreme sacrifice of "taking leave" from their nocturnal activity to join the campaign trail. Knowing their predilection for the game, this smacked of sainthood.

On the other hand, some "unknowns" and "little knowns" began to surface in the campaign's growing "cast of characters." Some were of the leading man/leading lady variety. Others were so confident, almost smug, about their garrulously professed expertise in politics, they gave me butterflies in my stomach.

Still others were so blatant in their perorations and sky-high promises of victory, they looked to me more like the arch villains and villainesses of my old movies with President Erap. They gave me a sick stomach every time. When they found out I still didn't have funds, they vanished from sight, unlike Metro Manila's garbage.

The persistent ones offered to "connect" me with big campaign donors, but this early they had favors to ask, invoking all too soon our misplaced sense of *utang na loob*. For one tagged as a *pusong mamon* and with no mean streak in my bones, it was surprisingly easy to be straightforward with these characters and suggest they go to Semirara or the latest announced garbage landfill.

My management guru was right. In business as in politics, the favorite AM radio station's call letters are "WIFM"—as in "What's In It For Me."

Eroding confidence

My confidence in people was fast eroding. So was my savings balance. And we were not even into 10 percent of the work at hand. Pete's energy level was beginning to level off. My children's idealistic bent—public service surnamed sacrifice—was facing greater challenges through the days. And still little communication from the party leaders.

I thought that what my truest followers told me was beginning to hold water: I may be the right candidate but this was the wrong time and the wrong side of the fence.

I asked for another sign as filing date approached and our preparations had ground to a halt. It was then the pernicious text messages came—that Erap and I had a "history," that my youngest son was "Erap given," and so I was running under his aegis.

I thought not of myself but of my husband and our son, Erap's 28-year-old godson who is enjoying so much confidence at his workplace in Metro Washington DC. He, too, would be a father in a month. What if his fellow workers believe the vile text messages that cross overseas and don't bother to confirm their veracity? What if he doesn't laugh this off the way Pete does. What if my daughter and grandchildren there are emotionally affected as well? It is one thing to be onion-skinned, it is another to insulate one's family from intrigue.

Fast forward to my formal letter dated Feb. 4 to President Erap, begging off from the candidacy. In the spirit of transparency, I wish to share the following excerpts with you:

"...I realize that I do not have the propensity, much less the passion for politics, or more aptly, for politicking. The glaring and more pragmatic realities of Philippine political culture have begun to stare me squarely in the face. *Hindi yata kaya ng kalooban ko.* And I am not about ready to sacrifice my idealism. I can render more effective public service through media, education and civil society.

Back to normal

I resigned last Jan. 23 from IBC 13. Thank you for 30 months of my most challenging management experience. I await my successor for a professional turnover. I plan to go back to media practice as an actress, emcee, director, or public affairs anchor. I can also accept long-standing offers to go back to radio and to teach part time. I may also put up a speaker's bureau or a training outfit. At 56, *kaya pa naman siguro ito ng tuhod ko.* I look forward to a 'midlife high'—no 'midlife crisis' for this grandmother."

I cannot overemphasize that this decision does not in any way detract from the friendship and support that my family professes for the Ejercitos. We shall continue to hold them in high regard.

Our house is back to "normal busy," so is my schedule as I await my successor at IBC 13. But the hangers on are gone, the false prophets with outstretched palms have faded away. Happily, the real supporters remain—the genuine friends steady in their sighs of relief at my aborted candidacy. They affirm their support for whatever decision I have made, but they wouldn't have wished politics even on their worst enemy.

To date, my successor at IBC remains unappointed. As soon as I have someone to turn over management to, I shall relaunch my deferred on-camera and onboard career. In preparation, I now review my biodata. I might just add to my credentials: unscatched "ex-future *senadora.*"

RICHARD Nazareth, Arvin Mendoza, Alvin de Gamo and Gerald Lauron

MICHELLE Arcangel, Angela Trillo, Coco Cruz and PMAP president Grace Molina

PIERRE Tounzis

BEAUTIFUL Phomela is the princess of the party.

Hats off to Year of the Snake

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

THE PROFESSIONAL Models Association of the Philippines hosted a party last week to welcome the Year of the Snake at Stars. The theme focused on hats. The statuesque models all looked so fashionable in their creative hats. Choreographer **Robbie Carmona** brought home the "best hat" trophy with his elaborate Indian headdress.

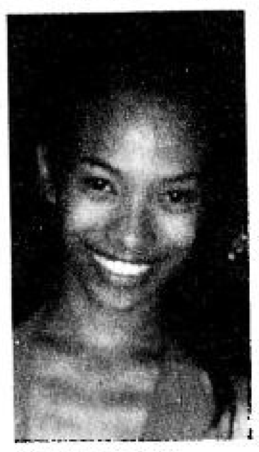
To PMAP and the Year of the Snake, we take off our hats!

PEPITO Albert, Inno Sotto and Patrick Rosas

PING Federis with JB and Desiree Abesamis

PAOLO Valdez and EJ Litton

PAOLO Relucio and Chris Vasquez



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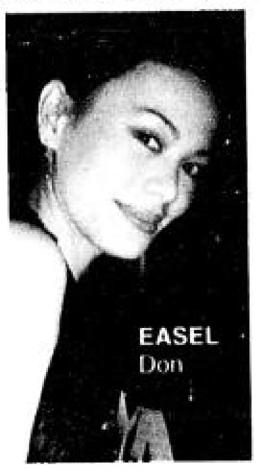
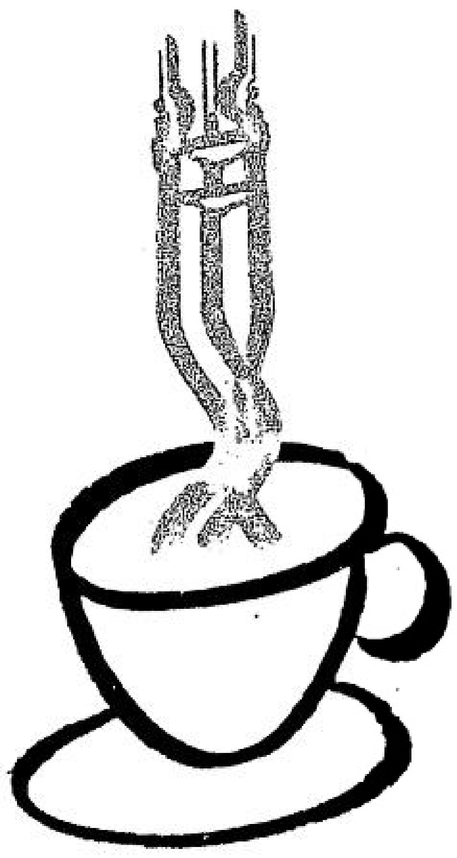


EASEL Don

MAGE Yunon

TINA Duque



A new cafe opens in Tomas Morato, QC

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Yan ang galing... without overspending!

PARSONS GREEN, LONDON A black-and-white animal print outfit gets wild with gigantic white pearls and suede boots for a black tie event

Prints around the continent

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY KITTY GO

Prints are difficult enough to wear in the spring and summer but these people have managed to look great in them despite winter not being the most fashion-friendly season

CHECKS and animal prints may be "so last season" this coming spring. (For your information, it's back to florals albeit handpainted ones for spring 2001). But in Rome, London and Paris this fall, men (would you believe?), women and children paraded their animal instincts and brought their checkered pasts (er, pants) out of hiding.

Despite rain in Rome, snow in London and clouds in Paris, stylish Europeans still managed to take dressing beyond the regimental solid black so prevalent in New York. There is a fashionable ease among the Europeans, particularly the French and the English, in making what is so singularly hideous part of a totally fabulous look. Note the pulled together looks of the woman in a dog's tooth burgundy jacket and appalling black and white reptile boots. Who would have thought a two-piece black and white zebra outfit with gigantic white pearls and suede boots would work? And tartans... Well, only the English!

THE FORUM, Rome

THANK God the wife chose a more subtle print.

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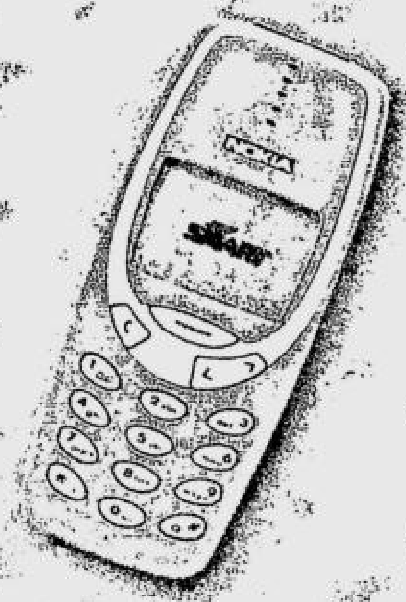

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If you don't have a kilt but insist on showing your Scottish heritage

LES HALLES, PARIS: Even among the fashionable French, animal prints still live.

VIA DEI DUE MACELLI, ROME: Louis Vuitton checked purse hangs on a muted lavender checked coat.

TUILLERIES, PARIS: Stars and stripes outside the former royal palace.

TUILLERIES, PARIS: A young cosmic creature shows space-age style by combining silver, red and fuchsia with a zebra print.

THE CAPITOLINE, ROME: Mom tours in a dog's tooth coat and ostrich lace-up boots while daughter puts on a yellow cardie over a navy dress.

THE VATICAN: A boucle skullcap beats a veil any day.

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ROCKWELL WOMEN. Marltess Lopez, Glenda Barretto and Virgie Ramos

FASHIONABLE guests Inno Sotto and Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Don't be too square to switch watches

IT'S about time, said the invitation. And of course it is, was and always will be, when you're talking about Swatch. The passing of time became of particular import during the opening of the Swatch shop at Rockwell's Power Plant.

Sen. Loren Legarda, who came wearing a red Typical Square Swatch, cut and pulled the ceremonial strings to launch the Swatch Spring-Summer 2001 collection.

Some of the strings happened to hold together yellow and silver balloons that covered the display window behind which image model Troy Montero stood, his body bronzed and his biceps glistening as he carried an armload of this town's trendiest watches.

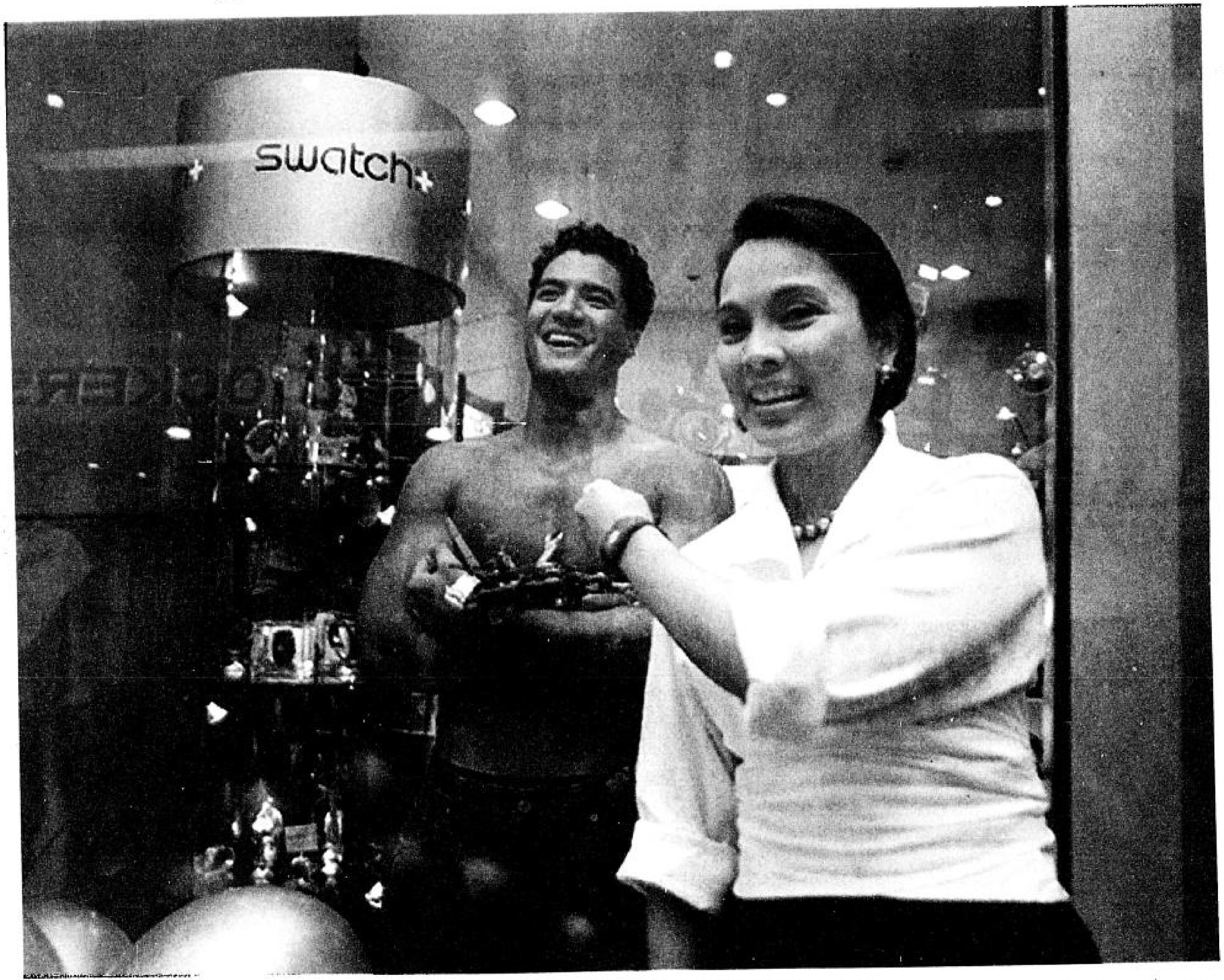
Instead of the obligatory floral centerpiece on each table, there was a fish bowl containing a fish and a Swatch.

Every second counted. While waiting for La Loren to arrive, Tessa Prieto-Valdez and Agot Isidro hosted fun games where they gave away, what else, but more watches.

In time for Valentine's Day is a watch designed by Swiss artist Albin Christen that speaks of his vision of the House of Love: a blue house with small windows that open, thanks to tiny removable or replaceable plastic films.

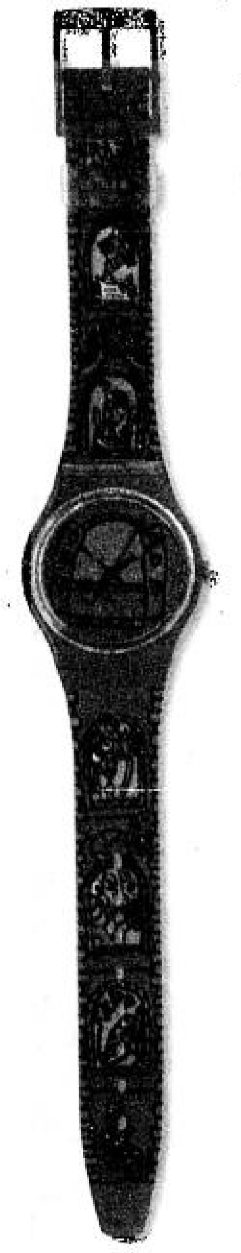
But what gets time(less) diva Virgie Ramos real excited is the new Swatch Square (S2) line, headlined by the black Don't Be Too Square and the red Typical Square. The square Swatches are a leap of faith for the slightly fuddy-duddy Swiss. They have squared the circle, imagine that! But as lovers of Swatch know, it was just matter of time.

Switch to square or stick to round—it's your choice.

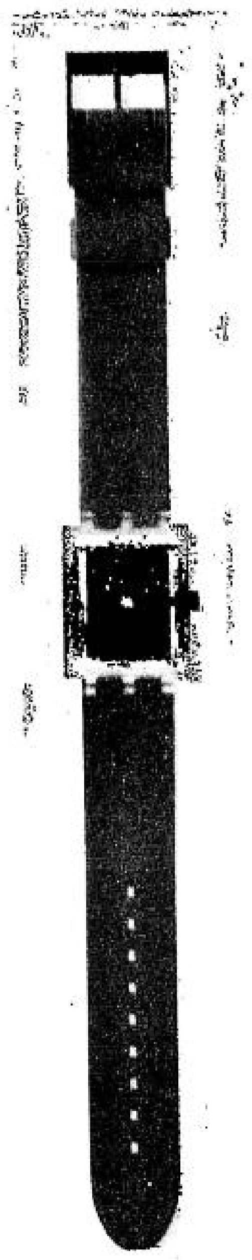


TYPICAL Square is the watch, not the wearer, Loren Legarda, senator. Round and square Swatches are in the arms of Troy Montero, hunk.

PHOTOS BY
JOHNNY VILLENA



AMOUR Total



SATISFACTION

THE SENATOR and the spirit behind Swatch can only be talking about one thing.

SWATCH siblings Miguel (left), Sheila (center) and Ivan (second from right) with guests

SENATOR Legarda with hosts Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Agot Isidro

BOOTS Anson Roa with IBC 13 officers and managers

WITH HER family during her birthday

Why I am an ex-future ‘senadora’

By Boots Anson Roa

IN MID-DECEMBER last year, former President Joseph Estrada asked me to run in the May senatorial elections under the political coalition LAMP. In the decision-making process, my husband Pete encouraged me to accept. “It’s payback time,” he said. “God, our people and the industry we’ve worked in have been good to us. It’s time to give back through public service.”

Moreover, the then president’s impeachment trial was already underway, and I thought he and his family were getting an unfair beating. The trial in the Senate was executed even more intensely in the court of public opinion, where media was its most impassioned prosecutor. An angry minority in the citizenry loomed as a self-appointed yet unlikely jury. Perception dealt its mighty blow, transforming repealed rumors and charges into sweeping indictments. The judicial process played second fiddle to the political process. The trial was on its way to becoming a public spectacle.

President Estrada was reaching his lowest ebb. Pete and I were not about to abandon his sinking ship and see a friend go down. We had made up our minds that we would not prejudge him. The judicial process was already in place and we would let it take its due course. Should he be convicted, we would invoke Biblical teachings: condemn the sin but not the sinner. We would advocate justice bereft of anger but, rather, tempered with compassion; forgiveness after retribution; restitution of ill-gotten wealth, once proven. If he were imprisoned, we would visit him, as “corporal works of mercy” dictate.

We accepted the invitation.

Sublime campaigner

Pete’s adrenaline level surged to heights unseen since his stroke in 1997. He started thinking faster, talking with greater cohesiveness, acting and reacting more alertly, and walking with less foot dragging. Suddenly, his limp bore a spring. His work pace at the office accelerated.

Before I could even ask Pete to be my campaign manager, he excitedly volunteered. In characteristic humor—the kind that had carried us through his disability these past years—I proclaimed him my Apolinario Mabini. Why, if the paralytic could emerge in Philippine history as the Brains of the Revolution, then my husband could certainly be the supreme think tank of my senatorial campaign. Then and there, I dubbed him “Pule,” later, more endearingly, “Puling.”

With party funding and logistics pledged, we started organizing a modest campaign with our meager savings. Foremost was the platform on which my candidacy would be predicated: family values with emphasis on education for the underserved and the underprivileged; more handicap-friendly public facilities, and recognition of media as society’s most effective watchdog. Media would have to be fiscalized, however, by a well-informed and enlightened society in turn.

On Jan. 10, we submitted a work grid cum timetable plus corresponding budgets for each phase to the party. Minus a response from the party, but with our commitment in tow, we formed a lean and mean contingent. We gave premium to the creative aspects of the personal campaign as the administration and logistics were assumed to be the party’s responsibilities. Pictorials were held to complement carefully planned and laid-out posters, flyers and other collateral. Our slogan: Boto ang pamilya kay Boots Anson Roa.”

Friend composers and arrangers offered discounts for campaign jingles and marches. One to the tune of “We Are Family” and another, a catchy adaptation of the Styx’s “Mr. Roboto.” We advanced the down payments. I was advised not to sing at campaigns. Ever so diplomatically, my family and friends insisted I was a better speaker. But sensing that I couldn’t be gagged, they arranged for me to start singing lessons too.

Meetings were held almost nightly. As our townhouse living room was becoming too crowded, we had to start looking for an affordable campaign headquarters. Happily now, offices and rental homes were beyond our budget, so while awaiting party funding, we converted our garage into an annex. Meanwhile, we launched a small media campaign with the help of friends from the industry. Our media program and budget remain on paper to date.

Repeated phenomenon

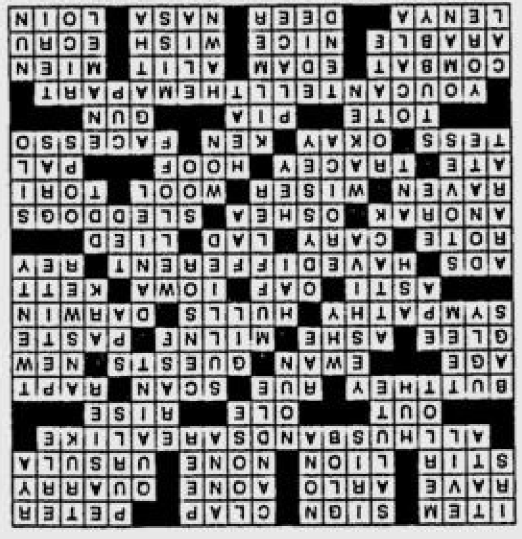
Our campaign plans were materializing quite slowly and with no certainty about party assistance. But we went on, maintaining full confidence in President Erap’s pledge. But as slowly as our organization progressed, so conversely, the impeachment trial reached a speedy denouement and an abrupt ending that triggered what the whole world now knows as the repeated phenomenon of People Power 2. The impeachment trial in the august halls of the Senate was aborted and its conclusion was delivered by media and text messaging to a passionately angry multitude—about three percent of the country’s total population—that preempted the dictates of our Constitution.

The strong tide of emotion deposed the country’s president on a Saturday morning and installed a new one that noon. In the new president’s first working days, this same multitude that catapulted their beneficiary to the presidency was criticizing her for her official moves. I am reminded of Christ being hailed with hosannahs and soulful cheers on Palm Sunday, only to be jeered at after a few days and led to his Crucifixion and death the Friday after. All by the same throng of people who pointed their fickle fingers of faith.

As our candidacy gained exposure so proportionally we were exposed to the de rigueur characters of any campaign story. It was heartwarming to hear from friends from the distant and recent past resurrected

WHY / p.G2

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Dr. Gene Abes

“SEX” AND THE SORE THROAT EXPERT

Dr. Gene Abes is the head of the ENT Department of the Philippine General Hospital

“ The secret to healthy living is to start your day with lots of SEX. S-for smile, E for enthusiasm and X for excitement. SEX.” Indeed, this wasn’t the usual prescription you’d get from any doctor. But then Dr. Generoso “Gene” T. Abes is no ordinary M.D. He is the head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology of UP College of Medicine, PGH. In layman’s terms, otorhinolaryngology means the study of the ear, nose and throat, (ENT). In the next few weeks , Dr. Abes will be providing fresh and equally intriguing insights on sore throat.

But first, get to know more about the other side of the sore throat expert. As you can see from his SEX philosophy, that other side is green. But it’s not quite as green as you think. When Dr. Abes is not busy teaching, doing research work, or taking care of patients, you’ll find him at home with a small gardening shovel, taking care of his herbs. “With the limited time that I have,” says the good doctor as he points out the various herbs in his garden, “I have to indulge in some activity that will somehow take me away from medicine and see things in another light. So, that’s why I got interested in gardening.” Considering Dr. Abes is a doctor, a teacher, a researcher, and a department head all at once, when does he find a time to do his gardening? “After work and on weekends, Saturday afternoons and Sunday,” he reveals. “I try to start at home to do my dirty gardening because that’s the time I can be with my family.”

Originally, Dr. Abes tried his hand at growing orchids. But after learning he had to use fertilizers and pesticides that weren’t exactly good for the health, he decided to shift to herbs. Now, it’s been 10 years since he first began pursuing this hobby. Indeed, you’ll find his garden filled with fragrant herbs such as basil, oregano, laurel, cinnamon and rosemary, just to name a few. “It started when we were building a house. We wanted our house to be open from different sides such that we can see the outside from the inside. And vice versa.

That’s why we adapted wide doors. The only problem was the insects. But I didn’t want to use insecticides because of the adverse environmental effects.

So I tried to ask around from friends who are also interested in plants to teach me and give me information on what kind of plants I would have to plant in my garden. They suggested herbs. And so I got interested in herbs and the medicinal properties of herbs. And as you get involved in this, somehow you encounter herbs that do not only have medicinal properties but are also useful in kitchen.”

“Since herbs are annual plants, you have to take care of them a lot. They don’t want too much water. Some do not want too much sun either. But the good thing is they do not require too much space. You have to develop a culture and discipline and you must overcome challenges in order to grow them. The other thing also is that, since they require only a little space, you can plant them close to your house. At night when you want a little rest, after probably eating your dinner, then you can tend to them and at the same time be able to enjoy the fragrant odors of these herbs.”

“And the good thing is that I somehow realized that gardening and doctoring are similar in a lot of ways. You take care of something, which is a living organism, so what I learn in medicine with regards to the preventive aspect, treatment aspect and making the patient well, alive and happy also applies to plants.”

Catch next week’s interview where this time, Dr. Abes will be planting seeds of enlightenment to counter the common misconceptions on sore throat.

(Aside from being the current head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology of UP College of Medicine, Dr. Abes was the immediate past president of the Philippine Society of Otorhinolaryngology and has been presently elected as regent of the UP College of Surgeons. He is the first ENT to be elected to such a prestigious society, which is an umbrella organization for all accredited surgeons.)

Hexetidine
Bactidol

Leaves bacteria dead.

Next week, Dr. Abes does an expose on sore throat.

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PBA ALL-FILIPINO CONFERENCE
Pop Cola vs. SMB
Red Bull vs. Mobiline
Ann Curtis & Chubi del Rosario FANS DAY
4 pm, Ali Mall
Jolina Magdangal
album launch
4 pm, Farmers Plaza

FEB 14 WEDNESDAY
the love concert
Zsa Zsa Padilla Freestyle & Lani Misalucha
8 pm, Araneta Coliseum

FEB 15 THURSDAY
SMB's Post-Valentine Treat:
SYMPOSIUM Band
5 pm
FOODPLAZA

FEB 16 FRIDAY
Binibining Pilipinas 2001
MAKE-OVER WITH AVON
3 pm, Ali Mall

FEB 17 SATURDAY
The Love Center
STREET PARTY
with Bb. Pilipinas Candidates
8:00 pm
Araneta Coliseum Quadrangle

FEB 18 SUNDAY
PBA ALL-FILIPINO CONFERENCE
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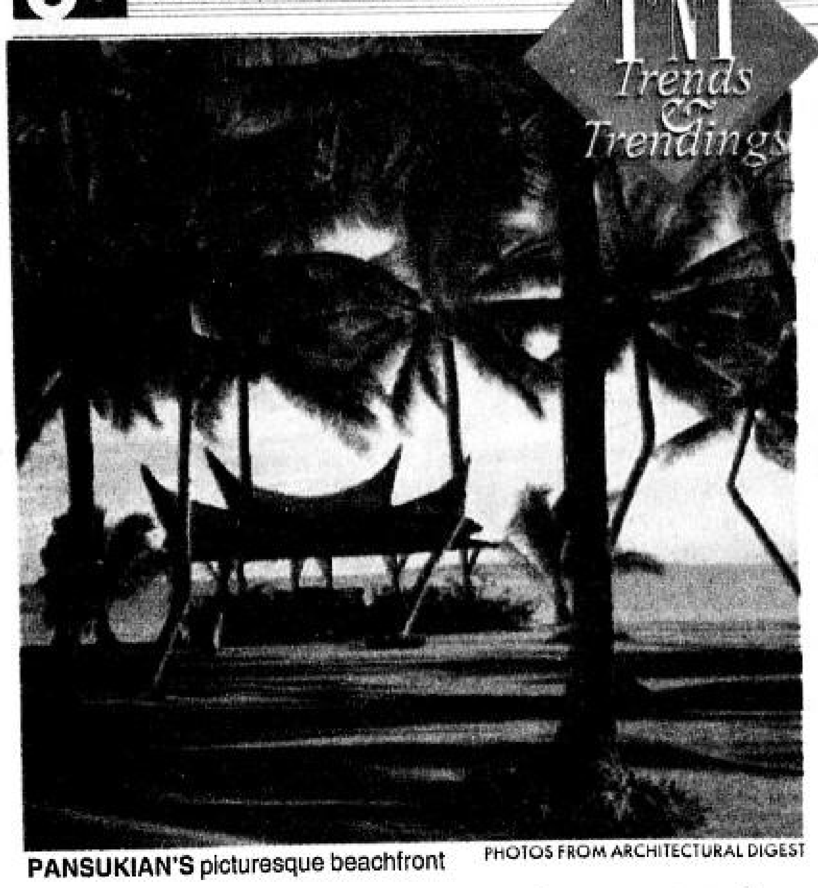
T'N'T Trends & Trendings

Surigao's world-class resort, comfort food and embarrassing moments



PANSUKIAN'S picturesque beachfront PHOTOS FROM ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

By Anton San Diego

MUST-GO-TO resort: Pansukian. Everybody knows Architectural Digest is the bible of interior design and architecture. To my knowledge, it has run only two features on the Philippines: the Pearl Farm in Davao City and **Doris Magsaysay-Ho**'s home. Now comes the third—on Pansukian resort located in Siargao island in Surigao del Norte. In its December issue, the magazine runs a special feature on hotels around the world, and Pansukian proudly joins other hotels from Argentina, the US, Africa, Italy and England.

The resort's design melds harmoniously with its idyllic surroundings. **Nicolas Rambeau**, general manager and owner, borrowed ideas from the architectures of Indonesia, Thailand and southern Mindanao and mixed them with his personal style. The resort is a maze of waterways and a gateway to beautiful islands yet undiscovered. The resort offers activities such as deep-sea fishing and offshore surfing. By April, a Padi dive center will be opened to give diving instructions, from open water to dive master. Of course, one can also sit back and relax amid the pristine and exclusive resort, to take in the surroundings and just do nothing.

MUST-GO-TO RESORT. Pansukian Tropical Resort PHOTOS FROM ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

Call (32)234-1282 or e-mail trvelvision@ skyinet.net or visit www.pansukian.com.

Comfort food. The best way to get over a problem maybe is to have a banana split. I was thinking of that recently when I was down for nearly a week with flu (a nice word when you don't want to say you had the runs). When I was starting to get well, I thought of what I would eat to make me feel better. The only thing I had been eating was *lugaw* and after the third day, I couldn't take it anymore. It reminded me of those awful-tasting medicines when I was a kid (think: Brondyl or Tempra).

Comfort food, like the name states, is food that makes you feel good, probably due to good childhood memories. I was a chubby kid and I remember hanging out in the kitchen a lot. That could be one reason some foods create a good feeling.

Sometimes good memories are associated with a restaurant. There are two restaurants in my youth that I loved: Kimpura and La Capana. Kimpura is still around. It used to be located next to Rustan's in Makati. La Capana on Edsa has long been gone. It served the best steak with butter rice and pizzas.

If there were any food in the world that would make me sing for my dinner, it would be *sinigang* and *adobo*. All those fancy stuff just doesn't do it, especially when you are feeling low. Whenever I eat these dishes in a restaurant or in the home of my friend **Karen Santos** (she makes the best *sinigang* and *adobo*), I feel great.

My friends' comfort foods include milk shake, potato chips and cheese. One of them even said *kare-kare* and *bagoong*. I looked at her perplexed.

Another comfort food of mine are chocolates, like Cadbury's Fruit and Nut and See's Rocky Road. When one eats chocolate, the result is sometimes quite orgasmic. It gives one a general well-being and sensual pleasure. Studies show that chocolates can be actually good for you and releases the same hormones when you have sex or fall in love. So it becomes a choice between sex, falling in love and chocolates.

Must-have home pillowcases: Sogno. Sleep would never be the same again with this must-have set of pillowcases designed by **Becky Makpugay-Oliveira** under the label Sogno. The brand, which in Italian means "to dream," makes sleeping extra-special. All pillowcases, including the bolster pillows, are handmade from 100-percent Italian linen, which can be combined with Swiss cotton lace or Irish linen. Special orders can be made—from baby bassinets to bridal trousseaus. Becky has plans of branching out into sheets and duvets in the future. Call 807-0254.

Embarrassing moments. Everyone has been caught in an embarrassing situation. I know I have. Some are hilarious while some make you feel like you don't want you to step out of your house again. Others are perfect conversational pieces so that you can laugh your heads off.

The worst embarrassing situations always happen when you're around people—situations like you're at a party and you see a familiar face. You talk for a long time and then realize you don't know the person's name. You are too embarrassed to ask the name since you've been speaking for more than 10 minutes. You wait for someone to come up and introduce that person or mention his or her name.

Other embarrassing situations are when you are caught with your zipper down, when your bra pads move to the shoulders, when you trip and take the whole table setting with you...You just have to laugh.

Once I was with a female friend and we were in Switzerland. She saw a cute guy and was staring at him while we were walking. Since she was short, she hit one of those parking meters and chipped her tooth. I did not know if I should laugh or keep on walking. Eventually, she had to go to a dentist and have her tooth capped. Embarrassing situations are difficult especially if you get sidetracked like that and can't go shopping anymore. Just kidding.

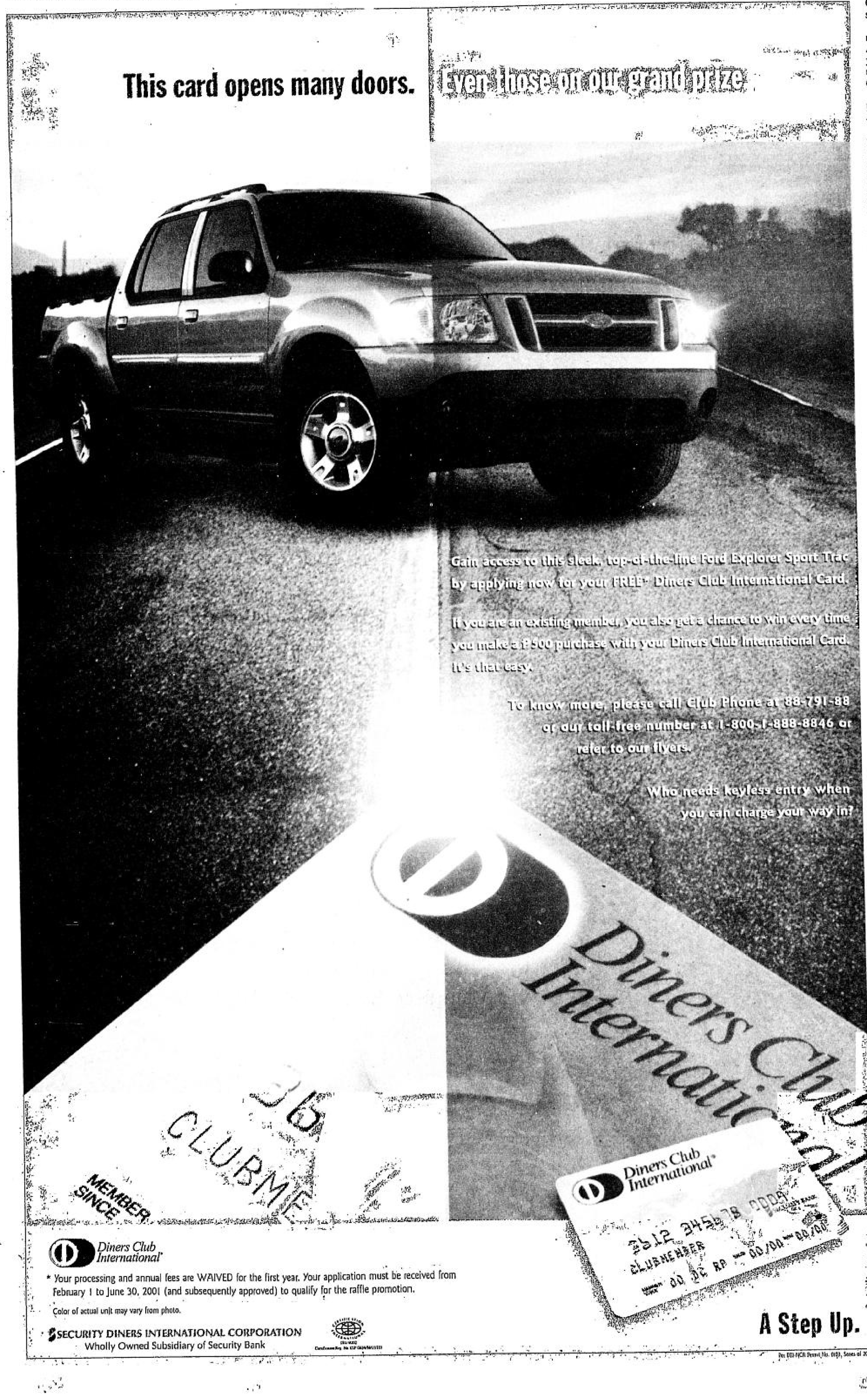
Sometimes it happens when you are meeting celebrities. Once I was with my good friend **Anton Mendoza** in Milan, and guess who just happened to walk in—**Tom Ford**. Now Mr. Ford has been one of my heroes and the whole night I was thinking of ways on how to speak to him. I did not care that other celebrities, designers and models were there. I downed my vodka too fast and was red as a beet. When I looked around I saw my friend Anton talking to Tom Ford. Anton came to me and asked if I wanted to meet Mr. Ford. I said yes, of course. While I was walking to meet him, I was thinking of what to say. When I was finally introduced, I shook his hand and said, "Congratulations!" I was stunned. He looked perplexed. I just got out of there.

Once when I was aboard a plane from the US, I queued up to use the bathroom. Everyone knows how long the flights are, so when the captain says, "We will be in Manila in an hour," you know it's time to freshen up. When it was finally my turn, the person who used the loo left it in a dump. Tissue sprawled around, water all over the sink and the worst smell that would make you cry. So when I got out, people waiting outside covered their noses as the smell was awful. You want to tell them that it wasn't you, but they wouldn't believe you anyway. As I was going back to my seat, which was a long trek (think: economy), someone waved at me. It was my high school classmate whom I had not seen in 10 years. I went over to greet him. He was laughing and said there was something caught in my shoe. When I turned around there was toilet paper coming from the bathroom all the way to my shoe. People were either staring or laughing at me. I hurriedly took the thing off and left it in the aisle and went back to my seat. I was humiliated.

Of course, now when I look back, I laugh at myself. But when embarrassing moments happen, you just don't know what to do. I say charge it to experience. My philosophy is, since humiliating experience is unavoidable, "cringe now for tomorrow you will laugh about it." While you're cringing, remember all those people who laughed, so when it's their turn, you can laugh back.

- E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

MUST-HAVE PILLOWCASES: Sogno by Becky Oliveira



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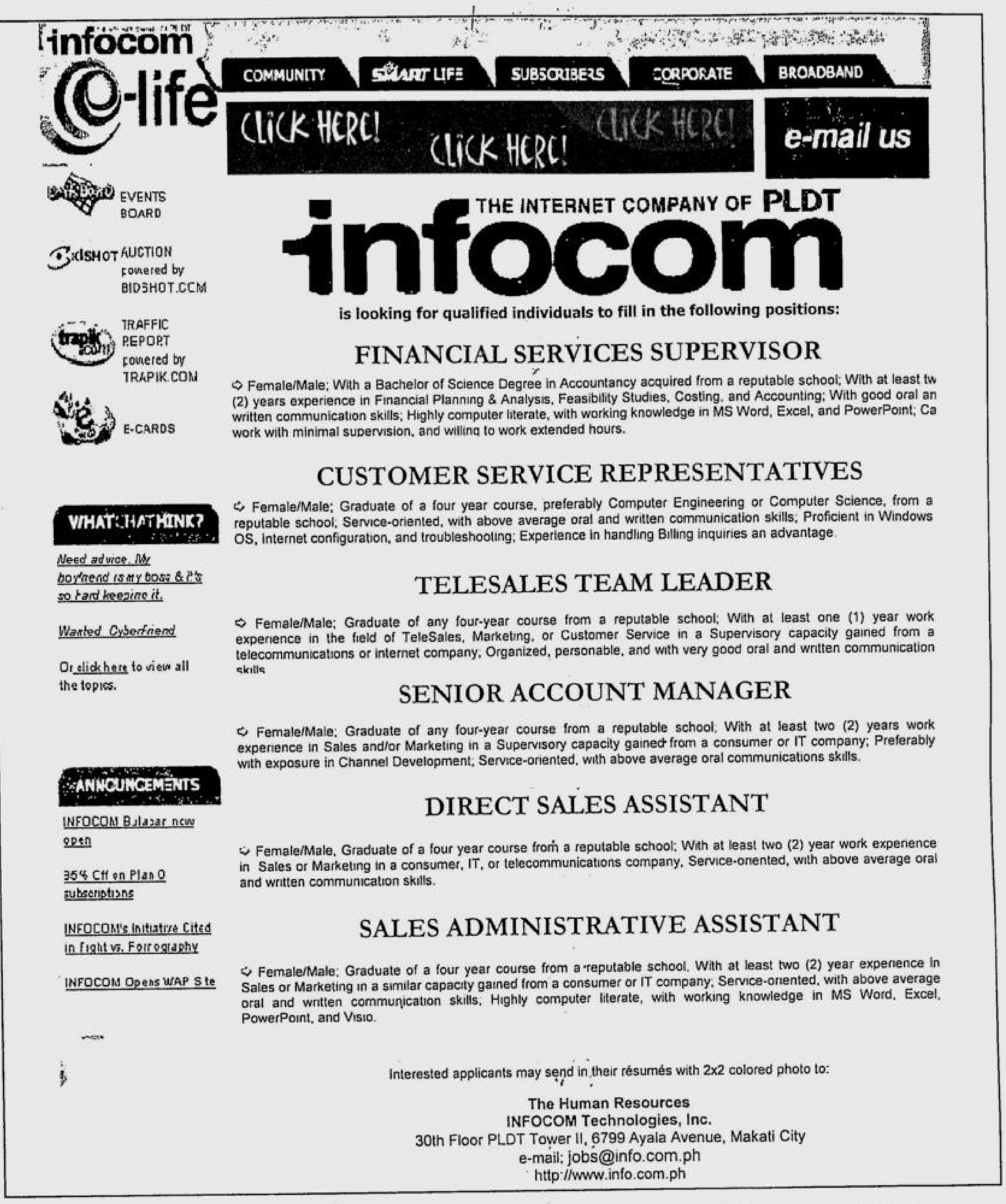

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INFOCOM Opens WAP Site

THE INTERNET COMPANY OF PLDT
infocom
is looking for qualified individuals to fill in the following positions:

FINANCIAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR

⇨ Female/Male; With a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accountancy acquired from a reputable school; With at least tw (2) years experience in Financial Planning & Analysis, Feasibility Studies, Costing, and Accounting; With good oral an written communication skills; Highly computer literate, with working knowledge in MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; Ca work with minimal supervision, and willing to work extended hours.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

⇨ Female/Male; Graduate of a four year course, preferably Computer Engineering or Computer Science, from a reputable school; Service-oriented, with above average oral and written communication skills; Proficient in Windows OS, Internet configuration, and troubleshooting; Experience in handling Billing inquiries an advantage.

TELESALES TEAM LEADER

⇨ Female/Male; Graduate of any four-year course from a reputable school; With at least one (1) year work experience in the field of TeleSales, Marketing, or Customer Service in a Supervisory capacity gained from a telecommunications or internet company; Organized, personable, and with very good oral and written communication skills

SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER

⇨ Female/Male; Graduate of any four-year course from a reputable school; With at least two (2) years work experience in Sales and/or Marketing in a Supervisory capacity gained from a consumer or IT company; Preferably with exposure in Channel Development; Service-oriented, with above average oral communications skills.

DIRECT SALES ASSISTANT

⇨ Female/Male, Graduate of a four year course from a reputable school; With at least two (2) year work experience in Sales or Marketing in a consumer, IT, or telecommunications company, Service-oriented, with above average oral and written communication skills.

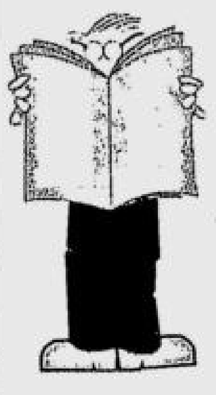
SALES ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

⇨ Female/Male; Graduate of a four year course from a reputable school, With at least two (2) year experience in Sales or Marketing in a similar capacity gained from a consumer or IT company; Service-oriented, with above average oral and written communication skills; Highly computer literate, with working knowledge in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Visio.

Interested applicants may send in their résumés with 2x2 colored photo to:

The Human Resources
INFOCOM Technologies, Inc.
30th Floor PLDT Tower II, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
e-mail: jobs@info.com.ph
http://www.info.com.ph

Where you find the best.



JOB ONLINE

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JOB VACANCY

VICE PRESIDENT

Administrative Group Bachelor's Degree in Management or related background; at least five (5) years of managerial work experience in the areas of personnel/human resource management and administrative functions both in private and government institutions; a team player; with good administrative, interpersonal and communication skills and possesses strong leadership quality; computer literate, organized, creative and highly analytical.

ACTUARY

(SG-27) Compensation Package: 1.1 million (annual) Minimum Qualifications based on CSC Qualification Standard Manual; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; five (5) years of relevant experience; thirty-two (32) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: CS Professional. Other qualifications: Bachelor's degree preferably in Actuarial Science or related educational background; at least an Associate Member of the Actuarial Society of the Philippines; at least five (5) years of related work experience in the areas of actuarial science and health insurance in private and/or government institutions; a team player, with good administrative, interpersonal and communication skills and possesses strong leadership quality; computer literate, organized, creative and highly analytical.

MANAGER

Public Relations and Media Affairs Department

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree preferably in Communication, Journalism or related educational background; at least five (5) years of work experience in the areas of advertising, public and customer relations, and media affairs both in private and government institutions; a team player, with good administrative, interpersonal and communication skills and possesses strong leadership quality; computer literate, organized, creative and highly analytical.

* Successful applicant for the manager position will be in-charge of handling all public relation events/ programs conceptualization, production and monitoring of similar activities including coordinating with the Advertising Agency.

Interested applicants may send Comprehensive Curriculum Vitaé with recent photo and other pertinent credentials (i.e., certificate of training/seminars, eligibility, diploma, transcript of records, performance rating, etc.) to:

PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Room 1709, CityState Centre Building
709 Shaw Boulevard, Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City

Deadline of submission will be on February 23, 2001. Only qualified applicant will be contacted.

POSITION CODE:
Vice President (Admin. Group)/Actuary (Actuarial Dept.)/Dept. Manager (PR & Media Affairs Dept.)

Standard Marking Systems

an established computer reselling firm challenges you to give the best you've got as we seek highly qualified individuals for the following positions:

A. INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTORS

- Part-time account managers, male or female, 24 to 35 old
- Attractive incentive schemes plus commission - no fixed salary
- New graduates are welcome to apply, willing to be trained
- With above average communication skills
- Must possess extensive sales skills and is able to handle corporate accounts
- Previous employees and applicants need not apply

B. ACCOUNT MANAGERS

- Graduate of any 4-yr. course from a reputable school (De La Salle, Ateneo, UST, UP) - New graduates are welcome to apply
- With 2 years experience in marketing IT hardware products an advantage
- With above average communication skills
- Must have excellent PR skills, can handle client presentations
- Must possess extensive sales skills and is able to handle corporate accounts

C. DEALER SALES COORDINATORS

- Must have good track record in computer sales (at least 2 yrs.) preferably from another computer company
- Must have extensive experience handling dealer sales

D. TECHNICAL SERVICE HEAD

- Male/Female, 30 yrs.old & above
- At least 3 yrs. experience in supervisory level position, related to **computer service** oriented work
- Must be very knowledgeable in computer hardware & software troubleshooting
- Knowledge and experience in notebook computers, Win NT, Novell, Win2000 required

E. COMPUTER TECHNICAL ENGINEERS

- Male, 25 yrs. old, 2 yrs. experience
- Extensive experience in **repairing desktop and notebook computers**

F. ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Female, accounting graduate, 20 to 25 yrs. old
- Must have extensive experience in handling A/R and A/P accounts
- Must be truswothy, organized, responsible and a team player

For letters A, B, and C, qualified applicants can call for interview schedules starting Mohday February 12,2001 at **637-3890**

For letters D, E and F, qualified applicants can bring their comprehensive resume with 2x2 ID pictures starting Monday, February 12,2001 at:

Quezon City - 66-R Emerson Bldg., Kitanlad St.(near Banawe) Q.C.

vchung@skyinet.net

Twinhead
The Notebook Specialist

DLR COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Document Imaging Enterprise Data Storage, Network Security, Performance and Total Visibility Management

needs topnotch, young, driven ambitious and aggressive

Account Managers - EDMS and Enterprise Data Storage Products

- ○ Preferably graduates of a 4-year course in computer science, electronics or computer engineering with strong inclination for sales and marketing work.
- ○ With pleasing personality and excellent presentation and demonstration skills
- ○ Minimum one year experience in marketing of IT products including IT project management or business process analysis
- ○ With strong Windows 95/98 and NT/2000 workstation experience, Windows NT/2000 Novell network knowledge and knowledge of industry-related hardware, SQL databases
- ○ Preferably a team player, highly-motivated, can work under pressure, highly competitive
- ○ Has an excellent command of English both written and spoken

Sales Engineers - Network Security Products, Network Performance and Total Visibility Management Software

- ○ Preferably graduates of a 4-year course in computer science, electronics, computer engineering with strong inclination for sales and marketing work.
- ○ With pleasing personality and excellent presentation and demonstration skills
- ○ Preferably with one year experience selling and implementing network security products, performance and network management systems
- ○ Preferably a team player, highly-motivated can work under pressure, highly competitive
- ○ Has an excellent command of English both written and spoken

Technical Support and System Engineers

- ○ Preferably graduates of a 4-year course in computer science, electronics, computer engineering with a flair for sales and marketing. Preferably has strong customer service orientation.
- ○ With pleasing personality and excellent presentation and demonstration skills. Preferably can conduct trainings and seminars.
- ○ With strong Windows NT/2000, Novell, Unix, Linux network knowledge as well as industry-related hardware, SQL database, HTML, scripting in MS Access or Visual Basic. SQL database background helpful.
- ○ With previous technical support experience including IT-related project implementation and management and/or systems analysis
- ○ Preferably a team player, highly-motivated and can work under pressure
- ○ Has an excellent command of English both, written and spoken

Please send application letters and resumé with photo starting salary desire to:

DLR Communications, Inc.
Unit 201 CCH Building, #136 Leviste Street (formerly Alfaro Street)
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Telephone # (02) 894-62-66
Email address: info@dlrcommunications.com

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ACCOUNTING/BUSINESS/FINANCE GRADUATES

The Company

General Electric (GE) is No. 1 in market capitalisation value in the world with over US$111.6B in revenues generated in 1999. Business activities range from appliances, lighting, industrial systems, aircraft engines, medical diagnostic equipment, plastics, information services and power generation equipment to financial services and broadcasting. We have a reputation as one of the best-managed companies in the world and a track record of consistent sales and earnings growth.

The Challenge

To support and enhance the Company's continued sales growth and global expansion, university graduates are being sought to join the **GE Financial Management Program (FMP).** This is a highly respected entry level, international training program. It is designed to provide top graduates with the tools to take advantage of unlimited business leadership opportunities. Successful completion of the Program will open the door to various positions throughout GE.

Program Qualifications

Candidates with the following qualities will be considered for the unique opportunity to join the fast-paced **FMP**:

- Recognized university degree in one of the above disciplines
- Must have graduated among the **top 15%** of the class
- English plus one Asian language fluency (written & spoken)
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal capabilities
- Keen desire to explore creative approaches to doing business
- Ability to work in and influence teams

To Apply

Submit personally, by mail, fax or e-mail, your comprehensive resume, with your latest 2"x2" picture and expected salary/benefits package, no later than February 16, 2001 to :

Human Resources Section
General Electric Philippines, Inc.
2291 Don Chino Roces Ave. Ext.
1231 Makati City
Fax No.: (632) 8160423
E-mail: EvelynJulieta Obion@geasn ge com

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

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the best
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Danfoss - a world leader in manufacturing industrial controls such as Frequency Converters, Flowmeters, Valves, Compressors, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning components. DANFOSS is represented in more than 120 countries and has over 20,000 employees worldwide. For our Philippine subsidiary, we urgently need:

SALES ENGINEER (Food & Beverage)

For this position, we are seeking an experienced person who can develop our business further within the food and beverage manufacturers. Priorities will be given to candidates with "Sales Manager potential".

Basic Requirements:

- Engineering background
- Strong application and process knowledge in the beer and softdrinks manufacturing
- Experience with frequency converters and flowmeters is an advantage
- Strong drive to achieve agreed goals and objectives

SALES SECRETARIES (HVAC & Water Division)

Support the above sales divisions, in handling phone calls, communications and marketing activities.

Basic Requirements:

- 20 to 30 years old, graduate of any business related course
- Able to give superior service to our customer over the phone
- Must be highly proficient in written and oral communications in English
- Proficient in MS Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Knowledge and work experience in a multinational Engineering firm is an advantage

Interested candidates are requested to submit their resumé and 2x2 ID picture by post or by fax on or before February 16, 2001:

Danfoss Inc.
Km. 18 East Service Road, South Super Highway, Sucat, Parañaque, Metro Manila
Tel.: 838-4591; Fax: 838-6626

MANAGERIAL

SuperFerry

WG&A PHILIPPINES

William, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc., "The Happiest Company" and The Captain in The Shipping Industry, invites you to be a part of its Dynamic and Highly Motivated Team by applying in any of the following positions:

AVP-MARKETING RETAIL

Qualifications:

- ✓ With sufficient exposure and experience in Retail Marketing.
- ✓ With experience in managing people.
- ✓ Good knowledge in Tri-Media Research and Statistics.
- ✓ Excellent communication skills.
- ✓ Computer literate in Windows application.
- ✓ Not more than 35 years old.

BRANCH MANAGERS

Qualifications:

- ✓ Must have experienced working in a shipping company (domestic or international).
- ✓ Expertise in both operational and administrative functions.
- ✓ Selling and negotiation skills is a must.
- ✓ With high leadership and people skills.
- ✓ Willing to travel and be assigned in any WG&A branches nationwide.
- ✓ Not more than 35 years old.

SENIOR HR MANAGER

Qualifications:

- ✓ Must have wide exposure in all HR functions.
- ✓ With competencies in Training, Hiring, Benefits and Compensation, and Project Management.
- ✓ Preferably Behavioral Science graduate.
- ✓ Must be 40 years below.

HR PARTNER (MANAGEMENT LEVEL)

Qualifications:

- ✓ College graduate preferably BS Psychology, Mass Communications, or any other related course.
- ✓ At least two (2) years relevant work experience doing HR functions.
- ✓ Has presentation and platform skill.
- ✓ Excellent communication skills.
- ✓ Computer literate.

HR ASSISTANT/HR PROJECT ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- ✓ Graduate of BS/AB Psychology, male or female.
- ✓ For HR Assistant, the candidate must have at least one (1) year exposure in HR general functions, i.e. staffing, training, benefits management.
- ✓ Has excellent communication skills both written and oral.
- ✓ Computer literate in Windows application (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe PageMaker).
- ✓ Presentation and platform skills is a must.
- ✓ Between 21 to 25 years old.

OPERATIONS/MANUAL SYSTEMS AUDITOR/ INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDITOR

Qualifications:

- ✓ Must be an Accounting graduate and have passed the CPA Licensure Examination.
- ✓ Preferably with at least two (2) years experience in Auditing Firm.
- ✓ Experience in systems documentation and fraud audit is an advantage.
- ✓ Preferably single, not more than 30 years old, male

For interested applicants, kindly submit the following:

Resumé, Letter of Application, Transcript of Records and 2x2 ID picture to:

HRR-Architecture Management Department
(4-5 p.m., Monday - Saturday)
or through jobs@wgasuperferry.com
Human Resources for Results Division
WG&A 11th Floor, Times Plaza Building
United Nations corner Taft Avenue, Manila
Tel. No. 528-7726

UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Invites you to consider a

TEACHING POSITION

For the First Semester, SY 2001-2002

History, Literature, English (MA or M Ed. In Language Teaching), Arts (MA in Humanities or Arts Studies), Filipino, Political Science (Ph. D in Political Science, Political Economy, International Relations, Public Administration, Development Studies, or Sociology.) Asian Studies (knows at least one Asian Language).

Interested applicants may send the following:

- ✓ *Application Letter*
- ✓ *Updated resumé (please include family background)*
- ✓ *Information on Educational Training and Attainment (E.g. transcripts, copy of diploma, certificate(s), award(s))*
- ✓ *Titles and Abstracts of researches done or Publications made, if any*
- ✓ *Employment History and record, if applicable*
- ✓ *Recommendation Letters**
- ✓ *Two (2) copies of recent 2x2 colored Pictures*

Applicants must have teaching experience and a master's degree related to his field.

Please send your applications to:

The Assistant for Faculty Affairs
Office of the College Secretary
Second Floor, CAS Building
University of Asia and the Pacific
Pearl Drive, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City

** Address your recommendations to:*

The College Secretary
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Asia and the Pacific

Applications must be received not later than March 30, 2001.

EL NIDO RESORTS

A world class tourist destination located in Palawan needs applicants for immediate employment

MECHANICAL ENGINEER or ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

22-30 years old, male, 2-3 years work experience, preferably with license, to be assigned in Palawan

SALES ASSISTANT

22-25 years old, female, pleasant, preferably Tourism or Hotel and Restaurant Management graduates

Send resumé with picture to Ten Knots Development Corp. Human Resources Dept., 2/F Builders Centre Bldg., 170 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, thru e-mail hra@elnidoresorts.com or at fax number 894-1134 or apply in person

---

EXPANDING INTO A NEW OFFICE

We are a leading regional supplier of industrial valves and instrumentations based in Singapore with subsidiaries in Malaysia and Thailand, invites suitably qualified candidates to apply for the following positions in the Philippines:

SALES ENGINEER / SALES MANAGER

- Degree in Mechanical or Chemical Engineering + min. 1-3 years relevant sales experience
- Honest, reliable and hardworking
- Dedicated, highly motivated and able to work independently
- Ability to interact and communicate at all levels
- PC literacy is essential
- Possesses own car
- Fresh graduates are also welcome

Interested candidates please e-mail or fax your detailed resumé to:

MK-51
c/o Classified Ads Department
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, The Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

NEW THEMED RESTO HIRING!!

JEKYLL & HYDE'S
Secret Island
• A RESTO-GRILL •

RESTAURANT MANAGER

- At least 2 yrs managerial experience
- Self-motivated, w/ leadership skills
- Seeking challenge and growth
- Can analyze & prepare reports
- Preferably 26 to 35 years old

Also Hiring: WAITERS & COOKS

BRING RESUME: 2nd Flr. Madison Square Bldg, 2574 Taft Ave. beside Kenny Roger & CSB nr. DLSU Malate Manila TEL# 744-2290

MANEGERIAL

Maunsell

MAUNSELL PHILIPPINES, INC., a member of the international engineering and environmental consulting firm, is seeking highly qualified applicants for their Makati office.

- **SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEERS (Code: SCE)**
  - Minimum 8 years experience in road design, earthworks, stormwater, drainage and flood mitigation measures.
- **SENIOR STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS (Code: SSE)**
  - Minimum 8 years experience in building and civil structures.
  - Some bridge design experience would be advantageous.
- **CAD OPERATORS (Code: CAD)**
  - Minimum 4 years in AutoCAD drafting.
  - Civil and structural drafting experience.
  - Microstation experience an advantage.

Mail / E-mail application letter, comprehensive resumé and academic transcript not later than **16 February 2001** to the address below.

Personnel Manager
MAUNSELL PHILS., INC.
8th Floor Jaka 6780
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Email address: **mpi@maunsellphils.com**

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

2 CADET ENGINEERS (ECE)

☑ Male or female
☑ ECE graduate
☑ 21 to 25 years old
☑ Knowledge of telecommunications equipment
☑ Must possess a valid driver's license
☑ Computer literate
☑ Willing to work long hours

1 SALES ENGINEER

☑ Male or female
☑ At least 2 years sales experience
☑ Fluent in English and Pilipino
☑ Preferably with background in telecommunications equipment (wireless communications)
☑ Computer literate

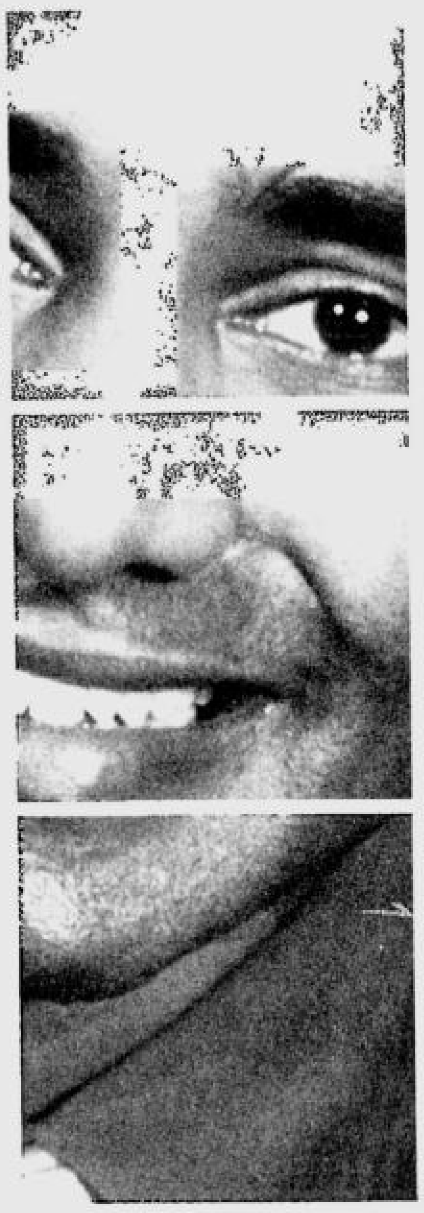
1 OFFICE CLERK

☑ Female
☑ Graduate of a 4-year business course, preferably an Accounting major
☑ Hardworking, diligent and honest
☑ Computer literate
☑ Preferably with experience working as a clerk, secretary or other similar jobs

Preference shall be given to residents of Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pasig, Quezon City and other areas accessible to our office located near the intersection of EDSA and Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

Please submit a WRITTEN APPLICATION LETTER, your typewritten or computer generated resumé, and your recent photograph to:

P.O. Box 202 • Greenhills • Metro Manila
Fax Nos. 632-9693 or 633-4633
Email: joelcm@info.com.ph



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DBS. Singapore's largest and most progressive bank. Founded on strong Asian success values. Fired by a daring global spirit. To be world-class and outstanding in one of the most promising regions of the world - Asia. It's where I am given a key role to complete one big picture of success. A role where I can inject all my energy, creativity and passion. Feel challenged? Good, let's hear from you.

Information Technology Group

ITG - Applications A

We are looking for DEPARTMENT MANAGERS *(PDI 110201/01A)*, PROJECT MANAGERS *(PDI 110201/02A)* AND PROJECT LEADERS *(PDI 110201/03A)*

in the following areas:
- Retail banking applications (e.g. deposit products)
- Retail delivery channels such as ATM, Internet Banking, Telephone Banking involving IVR, CTI, CRM, intelligent e-mail, CMS
- Experience in any of the following environments would definitely be an advantage:
  - MVS mainframe
  - Solaris/Oracle/C++
  - Win NT/Win 2000
  - leading CRM packages

Other requirements:

DEPARTMENT MANAGERS
- A good university Degree or equivalent with at least 15 years of IT experience in applications development, supervised a team of more than 20 staff and worked with vendors for solutions
- Must be in a managerial capacity for 2 - 3 years and familiar with IT development, budgeting, manpower planning and performance appraisals
- Strong communication and coaching skills
- Good knowledge of leading technologies and good vendor connections

PROJECT MANAGERS
- A good university Degree or equivalent with at least 8 years of IT experience in applications design and development, supervised a team of more than 8 staff and worked with vendors for solutions and implementations for large projects
- Strong communication skills, management and leadership qualities

PROJECT LEADERS
- A good university Degree or equivalent with at least 4 years of IT experience in developing applications over the whole systems development life-cycle
- Analytical, articulate and able to gather user requirements for systems development
- Strong technical development skills

APPLICATION DEVELOPERS/ PROJECT LEADERS/ TEAM LEADERS

(PDI 110201/04A)
- Wireless/Internet Banking and eCommerce

You will be part of a forward-looking and dynamic team who will be responsible for application development & enhancements, documentation and maintenance of Wireless, Internet Banking and eCommerce systems. You will be using new cutting-edge technologies such as WAP, P2G and Broadvision.

Requirements:
- Degree in Computer Science, Engineering or other related fields
- 1 – 5 years of working experience in developing experience using C/C++, JavaScript or Java on Unix platform
- Experience in Oracle RDBM, Java and scripting is an added advantage
- Candidates with an interest in small devices may be considered for Mobile development
- Candidates with relevant experience in managing projects may be considered for senior positions

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATORS

(PDI 110201/05A)

You will be responsible for general system and application administration for application servers. You will be part of the team involved in the management and control of developers' and testing environments, which also include source/document control and change management flow.

Requirements:
- Degree in Computer Science, Engineering or other related fields
- 1 – 5 years of working experience in 2 or more of the following areas:
  - Unix System (Sun Solaris) administration with Networking experience
  - Oracle Database Administration (preferably on Sun Solaris)
  - Quality Assurance and System Development Life-Cycle
  - Planning and setting up test environment for Internet-based application; familiar working with test tools
  - Application deployment
- Experience in web application development on Sun Solaris which involves using C/C++ or Java is an added advantage
- Candidates with relevant experience in managing projects may be considered for senior positions

ITG - Applications C

SENIOR IT ANALYST

(PDI 110201/06A)

You will be involved in the development of a range of innovative products and services. This covers co-ordinating and liaising with various departments on requirements, programming and design, systems implementation and project management. There will be opportunities for regional travel for short-term assignment in the Asia Pacific region.

Requirements:
- Experience in one or more of the following areas:
  - Retail and investment banking applications such as Savings & Current Account, Credit Card - Cardpac
  - MVS or OS/390, COBOL, CICS and DB2 experience
  - Win NT, Unix, C/C++, Java, PowerBuilder and Visual Basic
- Candidates with extensive years of experience will be considered for senior positions

REMUNERATION

We offer a competitive remuneration package which includes attractive bonuses, subsidised loans, medical benefits, annual leave, local and overseas holiday bungalows, the unique DBS Share Ownership Scheme and long-term incentives programme.

There will be ample training and development opportunities for staff to develop their potential in line with our business needs.

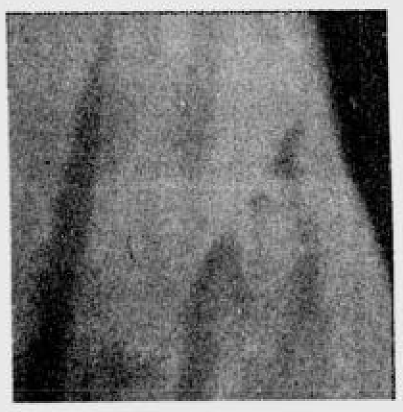
APPLICATION

You are invited to e-mail or fax your full resume including detailed employment history, qualifications, current and expected salaries together with a recent photograph to:

E-mail: hrpsrec@dbs.com
Fax: 65-557 2721

Please indicate the reference number in your application.

(We regret that only shortlisted candidates will be notified.)



For our full portfolio of careers and application, check out:

www.careers.dbs.com

DBS is the largest banking group in Southeast Asia. With an Aa2 rating from Moody's, an A+ from Standard & Poor's and an AA- from Fitch IBCA, it is ranked amongst the world's top 100 banks

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We're Building A World-Class Bank In Asia.

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A fast growing Japanese company engaged in freight forwarding, warehousing, trucking local and international moving, and heavy lift operations is in need of additional manpower for its 2001 expansion program:

SEA - EXPORT SUPERVISOR

- College graduate, preferably Customs Administration
- With minimum experience of three (3) years in similar position
- People-oriented, can work independently
- Not more than 35 years old
- Computer literate

SEA - IMPORT SUPERVISOR

- College graduate, preferably Customs Administration
- With minimum experience of three (3) years in similar position
- Not more than 35 years old
- Computer literate

TWO (2) DRIVERS

- At least High School graduate
- With three (3) years experience and can drive a 10-wheeler truck
- Must possess professional driver's license with 2-3 code restrictions
- Willing to be assigned in our Carmona, Cavite Office

Interested applicants may apply personally or send resumé with 2x2 picture and credentials (NBI clearance, SSS ID, previous work certification/clearance) at the following address:

A.T.E. FREIGHT PHILS., INC.
Corporate Affairs Department
Roligon Compound, 505 Quirino Ave.,
Tambo, Parañaque City
Tel. No. 832-1005; 833-9703; 510-9215/20

A foreign owned company engaged in the manufacture of breathable and non-breathable polyethylene film for diaper and sanitary napkin applications is in need of

QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER

Qualifications:

○ Male
○ Graduate of Bachelor of Science major in Chemical Engineering from a reputable university
○ Seven (7) years minimum experience, three (3) years in managerial level
○ Experience in a multinational company or resin manufacturing or compounding manufacturer has merit
○ Proficient in Computer Skills
○ Fluent in English
○ Responsible and self-motivated person

Mail or fax resumé to:

HR Department
FULL SAFE PHILIPPINES, INC.
ACSIE Ave., Severina Industrial Estate
Km. 16, West Service Road, South Superhighway
Parañaque City 1700 Fax No. 8216916

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GetAsia Philippines, the country's lifestyle and entertainment Internet hub, is currently looking for smart and energetic team players.

Lotus Notes/Domino Developer

This person will be responsible for designing, developing, documenting and implementing web applications using Notes and Domino. Prior experience in back-end integration with relational databases, a thorough knowledge of administering Notes and Domino servers as well as Internet programming concepts and techniques are required.

Candidate should have at least 2 years experience in Domino Web Development using Lotus Script, Formula Language and Java Script.

C++, COM, ASP Developer

This person will be responsible for designing and developing multi-tier architecture web applications in the Windows environment. Candidate must have deployed industrial strength, real world web applications and should be fully aware of proper methodologies and best practices. Experience in developing POS systems is a plus.

Applicant should be highly proficient in Visual C++, MS SQL Server and COM/DCOM. Intermediate skills in Active Server Pages, Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script as well as MTS are required. Knowledge of the Microsoft .NET suite of products is a definite plus!

We offer competitive compensation package and excellent career opportunity. We will only entertain applicants that meet the above qualifications. Applicants should send their resume to ITjobs@getasia.com (please type your resume in the body of your e-mail, rather than as an attached file). Or you can send it to our office at:

GetAsia Philippines
15/F Citibank Tower, Citibank Plaza
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Earn as much as P20,000.00 a month!!!

THE INTERNET COMPANY OF PLDT
infocom
Technologies, Inc.

INVITES QUALIFIED APPLICANTS TO BECOME PART OF ITS DYNAMIC TEAM OF

SALES AGENTS

If you are
- **19-29 years old, Male or Female;**
- **At least College level;**
- **Proficient in PC Hardware servicing, Windows and modem set-up and installation;**
- **With at least one (1) year sales experience in a service-oriented company; and**
- **Willing to undergo training**

send in your comprehensive résumé to

The Sales Division
INFOCOM Technologies, Inc
30/F PLDT Tower II, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel.: 893-93-90, 867-40-53, 867-37-74
Fax: 867-31-89
e-mail: sales@info.com.ph

Get your career off the ground.

JOB ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

ATTENTION: YOUNG CPA

required by an importing and distribution company supplying the construction industry.

The applicant should have:
- ☐ CPA Degree
- ☐ Commercial accounting experience an advantage - not auditing nor banking
- ☐ Knowledge of computerized accounting systems
- ☐ Experience in producing monthly and annual financial statements an advantage
- ☐ Prepared to take responsibility
- ☐ Think laterally
- ☐ Initiative

Qualified applicants are requested to send their details to fax no. **812-5140** or e-mail: **norfolk@pacific.net.ph**

DevCap Asia, a company organized to extend high quality products and services to specific market niches, urgently seeks application from young, dynamic and service-oriented individuals to fill-up the following positions:

MARKETING ASST. (Code: MA)
CREDIT & COLLECTIONS ASST. (Code: CCA)
BOOKKEEPER (Code: BKPR)
SYSTEMS ASSISTANT (Code: SA)
GEN. SERVICES ASST. (Code: GSA)

Applicants for these positions should have the following qualifications:

- ☐ Male or Female, between 21 to 28 years old, with good moral character and pleasing personality
- ☐ Graduate of a reputable college or university
- ☐ Excellent in written and oral communication, coordination and organization skills
- ☐ Assertive, diplomatic and confident to work with people from different levels of organization
- ☐ Must show leadership potential and can work independently
- ☐ Willing to work long hours and conduct field work
- ☐ Computer literate
- ☐ SA and GSA applicants should be male
- ☐ GSA applicants must have at least 2 years driving experience and a valid driver's license

Please indicate the code for the position applied for on your Letter of Intent and submit it with your resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture on or before February 28, 2001. You may mail, fax or e-mail your applications to:

THE GENERAL MANAGER
DevCap Asia, Inc.
808 Prince John Condominium
291 P. Tuazon cor. 18th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City 1109
Fax: 913-3242 local 111 E-mail: admin@devcap-asia.com

Your connection to better people, better jobs

JOB ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

MANNING AGENCY to be established soon at Manila to recruit seamen for dry cargo and tanker vessels requires:

GENERAL MANAGER with good managerial skills and with good experience in related position.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT with adequate academic qualifications and experience in similar position.

DOCUMENTATION MANAGER/P.O.E.A. LIAISON with related experience and knowledge.

SECRETARY with excellent English and qualifications including computer word/excel etc.

Full C.V. with photo and reference letter to be mailed to:

P.O. BOX 13444, Ortigas Center Post Office
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

PAREF WOODROSE SCHOOL, INC.

Woodrose Vision on Teachers:

"Our teachers are educational leaders who take pride in their profession. They pursue excellence by doing their work extraordinarily well, and by seeking continuous professional improvement. They show genuine concern for and empathy with their student, always finding ways and means to transform learning into a joyful experience. They consistently manifest loyalty to the school. They actively engage in an effective home-school collaboration. They are models of the values and virtues that the school upholds."

If you think you belong to this breed of teachers, then you have a place in Woodrose. We can work together to make it happen!!!

We are looking for Professional Teachers who have the values and qualities to become part of our team as Grade School and High School Faculty Staff in:

**MATH, H.E., P.E., ART, MUSIC
SCIENCE, GEN. SCIENCE, BIOLOGY
CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, HEALTH,
ENGLISH, LITERATURE,
COMPOSITION, READING,
LANGUAGE, FILIPINO, SIBIKA,
HEKASI, SPANISH, COMPUTER**

Woodrose offers a highly attractive compensation and benefits package. We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth.

Interested parties may send their application letter with complete resumé, 2x2 photo, and transcript of record to:

**Personnel Officer
PAREF Woodrose School, Inc.
Acacia Avenue Extension, Ayala Alabang Village
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
E-mail Address: askwr@woodrose.curricula.net**

JOIN US!!!

BACKGROUND ARTISTS/ TRAINEES

- Male/Female, between 20 to 30 years old
- Preferably a graduate of Fine Arts, major in Painting

Send resumé and sample of work to:

TOEI ANIMATION PHILS., INC.
128 West Avenue,
Quezon City

FOOD WORKERS & CAREGIVERS NEEDED ABROAD!

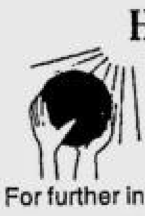
INCREASE YOUR CHANCES TO WORK ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD BY TAKING THE

FOOD SAFETY TRAINING SEMINAR!!!

IN ENGLISH
Tuition fee only P3000.- Valuable handouts and a certificate issued!

CANADIAN TRAINING SPECIALIST
& NORTH AMERICAN STANDARDS

Hallmark Career Enhancement (T.C.)



REGISTRATION OFFICE:
Unit #907- Vicente Madrigal Building
6793 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 6PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

For further information call: **891 5602 and 891 5632**

TRAINING VENUE DUSIT HOTEL
DATE OF SEMINAR: FEBRUARY 17, 2001

SALES EXECUTIVES
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old, graduate of any 4-year course
- Previous experience in any of the ff: Ind'l. Institutional Industry, Food Industry, Leather Processing, Textile Production, Paint/Plastic Pigment & Printing Ink Industry are an advantage

MARKETING ASSISTANTS
- Female, 20-25 years old, single
- College graduate of B.S. Pharmacy, Med. Tech., Chem. Eng'g, Bio-chemistry or any related science course
- Accommodating walk-in clients and answering phone-in product inquiry
- Preparing firm offer/quotation & business correspondence for Metro Manila & Provincial customers
- In charge in sales data management

STOCK CONTROLLER TRAINEES
- Male, 20-25 years old, single
- College graduate of any 4-year course
- Will handle jobs in stocks receiving, repacking, segregating and dispatching of items to customers and inventory

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS
- Female, 20-28 years old, single. Commerce graduates-any major course
- Know how to use Lotus, Excel & Word
- With or without experience in accounting related work

Applicants know how to speak Chinese Languages is an advantage.

Interested applicants may send their resumé, recent photo & transcript of records to:

L.G. ATKIMSON IMPORT-EXPORT, INC.
627 Del Monte Ave. cor. G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Besides Equitable-PCI Bank & Sergio Osmeña School, in front of Glori's Supermart
Tel. Nos. 363-7519/364-1081 / Fax No. 361-6517

CCC Data Management (Phils.), Inc., a fully owned subsidiary of *Commercial Computer Centre Pty Ltd. Australia*

Urgently Needs a:

Data Processing Administrator

- Position involves processing data and maintaining database for an Australian software company
- Must have excellent English language communication skills
- Ability to detect, evaluate and produce reports on problems
- Ability to follow procedures
- Ability to maintain the highest standards of data integrity
- Attained degree or similar in Information Technology and have excellent intuitive PC skills.
- Appreciation for work ethics
- Ability to work under pressure
- Must be a Team Player
- Willing to work full-time with flexible hours
- At least 2 years experience on DataBase maintenance

Interested applicants may submit their resume via fax at 522-4788.
Resume will be accepted from 9am to 3pm on February 12 & 13 only.
Successful applicants will be interviewed on February 15, 2001
Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

CCCDM (Phils.), Inc. is an equal opportunity employer

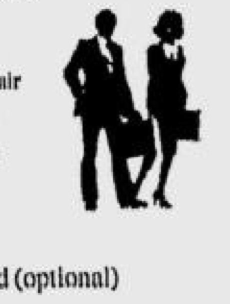
Pinnacle Technologies, Inc.

Needs Computer Literate People Like You !
URGENT HIRING NOW!!!

For Our Technical Department:

Computer Technicians - Computer Technology Graduate
Electronic Technicians - Computer Electronics
Computer Engineers - 4-yr. Computer Course Graduate

Requirements for Technical Department:
- Graduate of at least 2 year course
- At least 1-2 years experience needed
- Hardworking, willing to undergo training
- Must know Computer Assembly and Repair



For Our Administrative Department:

Computer Sales Personnel
- Must have experience in Computer Sales
- Aggressive, Smart, Willing to travel

(5)Accounting Staffs
- Female, Accounting Graduate
- With or Without Experience
- Knowledge in Quickbooks preferred (optional)

Computer Graphics Designer
- Knowledgeable in Web design, Flash, etc.

Pls. submit your applications to : jose@pinnacleasia.com
Ms. Angie Tuazon
3rd Flr. Pinnacle Bldg., 50 8th Ave. West, Grace Park, Caloocan City 1400

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.

is in need of high caliber candidates for

STORE-BASED MANAGERIAL POSITIONS (Code: R-SBM)

- At least 24 years old
- Graduate of a (4) four-year business related course from a reputable institution
- Preferably with (2) two years work experience in store operations
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be patient, approachable and able to deal well with customers
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

Those who meet the qualifications mentioned may send their comprehensive resumé with contact numbers, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo to:

Personnel Department
STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
4th Floor, Midland Buendia Building
#403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

℞
MEDICard

MEDICard PHILS. INC.

One of the country's leading HMO and the first HMO to be awarded ISO 9002 is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Female, Graduate of BS Commerce major in Accounting or BS Accounting;
With at least 6 months to 1 year relevant experience;
Must be proficient in Windows based application;
Willing to work on a contractual basis.

CLAIMS PROCESSOR

Female, between 21-29 years old;
Accounting graduate with at least 6 months experience in the same capacity;
Must be proficient in Windows application;
Willing to work on a contractual basis.

NURSES

Male or Female. At least 5'7" for males and 5'3" for females. Must be a registered nurse;
With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in a hospital or HMO setting;
With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills;
Client friendly and able to relate with all levels of the organization;
Willing to work as a reliever.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Female, 22-27 years old. Must be a licensed Medical Technologist;
At least 1 year relevant experience. Willing to be assigned as a reliever.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally.
Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at:
Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department - 8/F Sagittarius Bldg.,
H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
or email us at rsalmon@medicardphils.com

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MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

MÈDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES - SWITZERLAND

(1999 Nobel Peace Prize Awardee), a non-profit, non-governmental international humanitarian organization whose objective is to bring aid to populations in crisis, is looking for qualified personnel to fill up vacant positions for its Street Children Project.

Function: (1) SOCIAL PROJECT COORDINATOR ASSISTANT
Code: SPCA-EDR
Location: Manila/Makati City
Requirements:

- Master's degree in Social Work or related field
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent oral and written skills (English and Filipino)
- Humanitarian Spirit
- Previous experience as Coordinator, Program Manager, Social Worker in other institutions, experience in management preferred

Function: (1) PROJECT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Code: PAA-EDR
Location: Makati City
Requirements:

- Professional Secretary
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Good computer skills (MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Internet)
- Dynamic and with initiative
- Organized and independent
- Humanitarian spirit
- 5 years experience as secretary and in office management preferred

All application letters, comprehensive resumés with a recent 2x2 picture are to be mailed and addressed to:

Ms. Naty Jane P. Diestro
Country Administrator Assistant I
Code: ______
Mèdecins Sans Frontierès - Switzerland
209 Zodiac Street, Palm Village
Estrella, Makati City

Deadline for Submission: February 16, 2001.

MANAGERIAL

AIM

The AIM is currently in URGENT NEED of:

WEB/ HYPERMEDIA APPLICATIONS DEVELOPER

The new hiree will: conceptualize, design, and develop Cyber Learning Website content; develop website flow and all other aspects of the user interface, including navigation methodologies, visual and audio concepts, graphic language, typography, page layout, and supporting artwork; work closely with the other Cyber Learning Team members in identifying needs and providing solutions that support the project's goals and objectives; and manage design schedules and workflow procedures and be able to create prototypes.

Interested applicants must be a graduate of Computer Science, Computer Engineering or other related courses; preferably proficient and with relevant work experience in Database Programming, Web Development, Animation Software, and CGI; highly skilled in the use of DHTML, HTML, XML, JavaScript, VB Script and capable of designing server-side ASP and ActiveX components; have strong understanding of Web Protocols; have strong sense of design and attention to details; with willingness to stay on top of the latest design and media trends; and have the ability to work effectively and collaboratively with team members.

APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER

The new hiree will: design and develop computer programs that automate specific business process; consult with clients to analyze and understand functions to be automated; define, and document system requirements for data, workflow, logical processes, hardware and operating system environment, interfaces with other systems, internal and external checks and controls, and outputs.

Interested applicants must be a graduate of Computer Science, Computer Engineering or other related courses and should be familiar with the following: Visual Basic, MS SQL, Lotus Notes and Networking. At least one year experience in programming work. Must be matured, responsible, result oriented, with pleasing personality and good communication skills.

I.T. USER SUPPORT STAFF

The new hiree will be tasked to: act as customer service personnel who will supervise and monitor the IT Help Desk; document and answer all computer related problems and inquiries; elevate major hardware problems to service personnel for correction; and coordinate activities of infrastructure management and technology support services.

Interested applicants must be a BS ECE or COE graduate and should be familiar with the following: Windows 95/98/NT, Microsoft Office, Web browsers; PC/Networking troubleshooting and maintenance; and knowledge of Lotus Notes is a plus. Applicants must also have excellent communication skills, customer oriented, patient, can relate very well with people of different levels, and can effectively work under extreme pressure and under minimal supervision.

LIBRARY AIDE

The new hiree will perform circulation counter duties, shelve library materials, provide directional user assistance, maintain library database, monitor and record library report/statistics, and perform other library related functions. Applicants must be graduates of Library Science with excellent communication skills; service-oriented diplomatic, hardworking, and proficient in the use of various computer software packages. Preference will be given to male applicants.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER / RESEARCHER

The hiree will assist the Executive Managing Director and Associate Director for SRF / IIR in his/her duties as related to specific fund-raising and institutional / investor-related projects; project conceptualization and proposal development; coordinate, monitor, and report status of projects; coordinate and work with project assistants on specific projects as related to support services and external relations. Applicants must be a graduate of any four-year course (with masteral units / degree preferred), with at least two years relevant work experience, can work effectively under minimum supervision, have excellent oral and written communication skills, networking ability, interpersonal and organization skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Graduate of any four-year course. Proficient in the use of MS Office. EXCELLENT ENGLISH Communication Skills. Very good organization and coordination skills. Pleasing personality, customer-oriented, and easy-learner.

Interested applicants are requested to PERSONALLY submit their resumé, transcript of records, and 2X2 photo
BEFORE FEBRUARY 16, 2001 to the Office for Human Resource Development,
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, 123 Paseo de Roxas Street, Makati City
(To those who wish to send their resumés via e-mail, please send them to **recruitment@aim.edu.ph**)

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

ZENSHIN
SYSTEMS CORPORATION

is in need of the following:

System/Field Engineers

ECE, EE graduates.
Must be willing to do field work.

Marketing/Product Specialist

Marketing graduates. Must be a savvy in I.T.
Must be willing to do field work.
Must have good experience in Marketing.

Please send your complete resumé with photo to:

#25 G. Roxas St.,
Brgy. San Jose, Quezon City 1115
(near corner of D. Tuazon Street
and Del Monte Avenue)

Pazifik Power

For expansion of Substation Division
we are looking for:

Junior Sales Engineers

- Graduate of BSEE / ECE
- Preferably two (2) years experience in sales of electrical equipment
- Experience in sales of HV substation appreciated
- Good communication skills required
- Newly graduates may apply

Please send resumé with 2x2 picture to:

PPI Pazifik Power, Inc.
MCPO Box 4710
Makati City
E-mail Address: info@wihu-elektric.com.ph

ICCT COLLEGES

A leading computer tertiary educational institution requires top caliber applicants to fill the following positions:

HRD Code FC 001 **COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR/S**

- Holder of BS/BA degree in the field of

Math	Criminology	English
Computer	Legal Management	Accountancy
Education	Physical Education	Hotel & Restaurant Mgmt

- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Preferably w/ Master's degree & teaching experience

HRD Code AD 001 **COLLEGE DEAN**

- A Master's degree holder
- A graduate of an IT program (Undergraduate/Graduate)
- Preferably w/ administrative & teaching experience
- Good leadership, communication & interpersonal skills

HRD Code AD 002 **REGISTRAR**

- Holder of BS/BA
- Work experience in records management

HRD Code AD 003 **AUDITOR**

- Holder of BS/BA degree in Finance or Accountancy
- Preferably a CPA license holder & with work experience

HRD Code AD 004 **LIBRARIAN**

- Licensed Librarian
- Good leadership, communication & interpersonal skills

HRD Code AD 005 **MIS MANAGER**

- Excellent in server management & networking
- Expertise in LINUX server & basic Webpage programming

HRD Code AD 006 **MARKETING EXECUTIVE**

- Holder of BS/BA in Marketing
- Preferably with marketing experience
- Good communication & interpersonal skills

Submit application letter & resume w/ 2 x 2 picture on or before Feb. 28, 2001:
The President, ICCT Colleges, V. V. Soliven Avenue II, Cainta, Rizal

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Make a career choice Online.
Visit us at
www.jobmarketonline.com

GENERAL

An American Café and Restaurant Franchise is in need of service-oriented individuals to work as:

ASSISTANT COOK

The Assistant Cook shall work closely with our Vietnamese Chef in the development and preparation of specialty cuisine for the restaurant. To qualify, the candidate must be:

- able to understand the Vietnamese language
- with hands-on experience in the preparation of Vietnamese cuisine
- knowledgeable in food costing and sourcing of imported and local food items
- college level and/ or with specialized training in a culinary institute
- creative and resourceful females, at least 23 years old

COST CONTROL SUPERVISOR

- With 5 years exposure in a fine dining restaurant or food service establishment
- Excellent monitoring skills to control food/ operations cost while in-process
- Graduates of any Business course, proficient in PC applications, not over 35 years old
- Meticulous, proactive and independent minded

CASHIERS

- College graduate preferably of Accounting
- With at least 2- years cashiering experience gained from a fine dining restaurant or hotel
- Trustworthy and personable females, not over 28 years old

STOCK CONTROLLER

- College graduate, with knowledge in Accounting
- With exposure in inventory handling and stockkeeping of perishable and non-perishable restaurant supplies
- Experience in sourcing cost competitive food suppliers is an advantage
- Well built males, not over 27 years old

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resume with photo at:

The Recruitment & Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal,
Makati City

or E-mail us at : ***ubxhrd@i-next.net***

Parangal ng Bayan's Most Outstanding Training and Development Center for the year 2001

is in need of
dynamic & competent

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

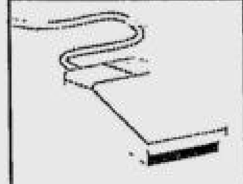
Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably in Marketing
- 24-30 years old with pleasing personality
- Proficient in written and oral communication
- Willing to travel within Asia

Please send your resume' to:

EXECUTIVE CENTER FOR PROFESSIONALS, INC.
...making training a lifestyle

412 J&T Building, 3894 R. Magsaysay Boulevard, Sta. Mesa, Manila
Telephone Nos. (632) 715-0180/85 • (632) 715-9433 • (632) 713-6075
TeleFax (632) 716-2323
E-mail info@excenpro.com • Website : www.excenpro.com



YOUR CAREER MIGHT ONLY BE A CLICK OF THE MOUSE AWAY.

JOBMarket ONLINE

Now on-line at www.jobmarketonline.com

UNITY MARKETING CORPORATION

A leader in the supply of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment parts and supplies is looking for qualified applicants for the position of:

SALES ENGINEERS / EXECUTIVE

He/She will be tasked to assist the Sales & Marketing Manager in achieving set sales targets in line with its current vision and mission.

He/She must fulfill the following requirements:

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- With excellent oral & written communication skills
- Preferably with at least six (6) months experience in sales
- Engineering graduates (preferably mechanical) from reputable schools
- With knowledge & experience in air-conditioning and refrigeration preferred
- Knowledge of basic computer software (i.e. MS Word Excel)

Compensation will be based upon qualifications. Qualified applicants may also have the opportunity for overseas training.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

- Female, with pleasant personality
- Not more than 25 years old
- With excellent oral and written communications
- Preferably with six (6) months experience
- Computer literate

Interested parties should personally apply and bring their resumé, 2x2 I.D. pictures, transcript of records from10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **February 12 to 14, 2001**.

Unity Marketing Corporation
950-956 Espeleta St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. Nos. 733-8241 to 52

SINGAPORE HUMAN Resource Consultants Pte Ltd

ACCREDITATION NO. 55031

A large telecommunication company based in SINGAPORE is aggressively seeking dynamic individuals to add value to its company's mission and activities "providing quality service."

Open position:

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS

Candidates should be a degree holder, Male/Female, pleasing personality, fluent in English language, computer literate and with a minimum 2 years experience in telecommunication industry.

Successful candidates will be offered a 2-year contract - renewable, attractive salary package, life insurance, performance-based bonus, extensive trainings and career advancement.

Interested applicants may apply personally with their resumé, diploma, T/R, Employment certificates. Passport and other pertinent documents (all must be prepared in A4 sizes bondpaper) starting **12 February 2001**, to:

IDEAS SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT CO., INC.
12 Kasing-kasing St., corner K 9th St., East Kamias, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 4391769, 4334494

This ad is allowed under MC-2
MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER

Sensormatic®

WORLD LEADER IN ELECTRONIC SECURITY

Sensormatic Electronic Corporation is the World's Leading Designer, Manufacturer and Distributor of Integrated Electronic Security products with the World Headquarter located at Boca Raton, Florida, U.S.A. is looking for

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- College graduate (preferably Marketing/Management and Business course)
- At least 25-35 years old, preferably female
- Computer literate with good oral/written communication
- Must have a marketing/sales experience of at least 2 years
- Willing to be trained in Sales or in Marketing aspect
- Must have a positive attitude towards work

Interested applicants may send no later than February 15, 2001, their Letter of Intent and Resumé to:

Ms. Mary Rose S. Licardo
Unit 2204 Prestige Tower Condominium
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1605
Tel: (02) 910-6636 to 38
Email: sensorma@skyinet.net

IMMEDIATE HIRING AT PS BANK TOWER!!

WE NEED:

- College graduates of at least a 4-year course from reputable schools
- Willing to start immediately (not presently employed or enrolled)
- Fluent in English or Chinese
- With pleasing personality

APPLY AT: Suite 2104, 21st Floor PS Bank Tower
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

WE OFFER:

- STARTING INCOME OF P 18,000.00
- Local & International company sponsored trips
- Comprehensive training at company's expense
- Plus other benefits

Come in **PROPER BUSINESS ATTIRE** and bring two (2) passport-sized pictures, complete resumé/bio-data and valid ID on Monday and Tuesday (Feb. 12, 13) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

AYALA AVIATION CORPORATION

AYALA AVIATION CORPORATION,
a wholly-owned subsidiary of AYALA CORPORATION,
opens up a job opportunity for a . . .

SALES EXECUTIVE

He/She must be/have:

- ✓ At least (2) two years experience in sales and marketing preferably in the field of aeronautics or aircraft sales and/or services.
- ✓ College graduate with Bachelor Degree in Commerce, Aeronautical Engineering, or other related degrees.
- ✓ Pleasing personality, team orientation, and a relentless drive to succeed.
- ✓ Highly conversant in the field of sales and with good communication and presentation skills.
- ✓ Computer literate.
- ✓ 24 to 30 years old.

WE OFFER ATTRACTIVE REMUNERATION PACKAGE.

Send or bring your comprehensive resumé with your recent 2"x 2" picture to **Ayala Hangar, Domestic Airport, Pasay City.** For inquiries, please call telephone numbers **832-3595** or **854-0764**, and look for **Mariz Dela Cruz.**

WENDY'S

is in need of

PERSONNEL CLERK

- * Male/ Female, not more than 26 years old
- * AB or BS Psychology Graduate
- * Computer literate
- * Hardworking and flexible
- * With excellent interpersonal and communication skills

Please mail your resumé with 2x2 recent photo & Transcript of Records to :
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
WENPHIL CORPORATION
4TH FLOOR, UMC BLDG., 900 U.N. AVENUE
ERMITA, MANILA

It's The Best Time For Wendy's

KATIPUNAN METALS CORP.

Victoria Wave, Ltd., Special Economic Zone
Bo. Malaria, Tala, Caloocan City
Phone #983-50-40 / Fax # 983-50-39

Wanted : SECRETARY

with the following qualifications:

- ➢ Female, 18 to 26 years old
- ➢ Computer literate (Windows)
- ➢ Background in accounting preferred but not required
- ➢ With pleasing personality & of good moral character

Due to the urgency of our need to fill in said position, interested parties are advised to apply in person.

EUROCOM TRADING CO., INC.

Is in need of the following:

1. ACCOUNTING EXECUTIVE/SALES EXECUTIVE

- Male/Female, 21 to 30 years old.
- College graduate, proficient in oral and written communication skills.
- Well motivated to succeed in selling career.
- Hardworking, aggressive resourceful and responsible.
- Knowledge of computer is an advantage.

2. MARKETING EXECUTIVE

- Female, 21 to 30 years old.
- College graduate of any related course.
- Must have experience in handling IT dealers.
- Telemarketing aggressive hardworking.

3. SECRETARY

- Female, single 21 to 28 years old.
- College graduate, with or without experience.

Qualified applicants may apply in person with resumé, transcript of records and 2 ID picture.

Applications end February 26, 2001, Monday to Saturday

700-A. Banawe St., Quezon City
Bet. Retiro and Del Monte
Tel. No. 743-8479

A top salon in Greenhills is in need of a

FRONT DESK PERSONNEL/ RECEPTIONIST

She must be efficient and fluent in oral and written communication, with pleasing personality and at least college level.

Interested parties may apply personally with their resumé/biodata at:

HAIRSCOPE, INC.
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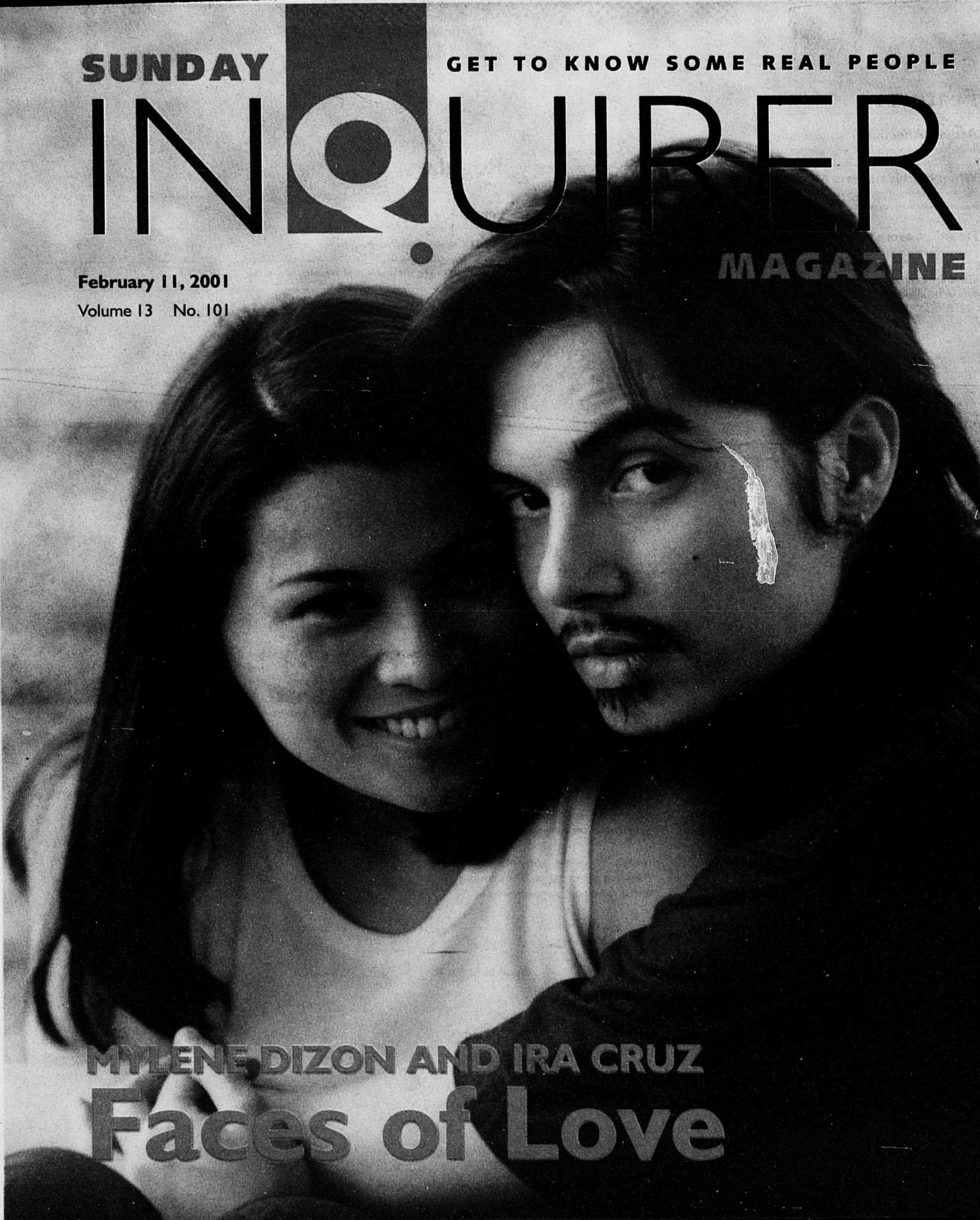
SUNDAY

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

INQUIRER

MAGAZINE

February 11, 2001
Volume 13 No. 101



MYLENE DIZON AND IRA CRUZ

Faces of Love

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Valentine's Day sa Pajero

Sa wakas kinumpuni na
nang todo ang Pajero.

Pinalitan ang air-con para laging
malamig ang hangin sa pagitan nating dalawa
tuwing magbibiyahe sa Sabado o Linggo.

Pinalitan ang motor ng windshield wiper
para matigil na iyang pagmamantsa ng ulan
sa salamin na para bang di-matuyuan-ng-luha.

Pinalitan ang shock absorber para hindi na
mahalata ang bagok at yanig at dabog
at biglang kabig at ilag sa humps at lubak.

Pinalitan ang headlights para mabawasan ang
pagkukunot-noo sa gabi kasabay ng pagbibintang
sa dilim nitong di-pagkaunawa sa biglang di-pagkibo.

Pinalitan ang mekanismo ng power steering dahil
biglang humirap itong pagliko nang pakaliwa't pakanan
at halos naging imposible ang atras-abante.

At nilinis ng power vacuum ang lahat ng sulok
para maalis nang lahat ang naiwan sa mga gilid
at lumabas ang unang kulay ng upholstery.

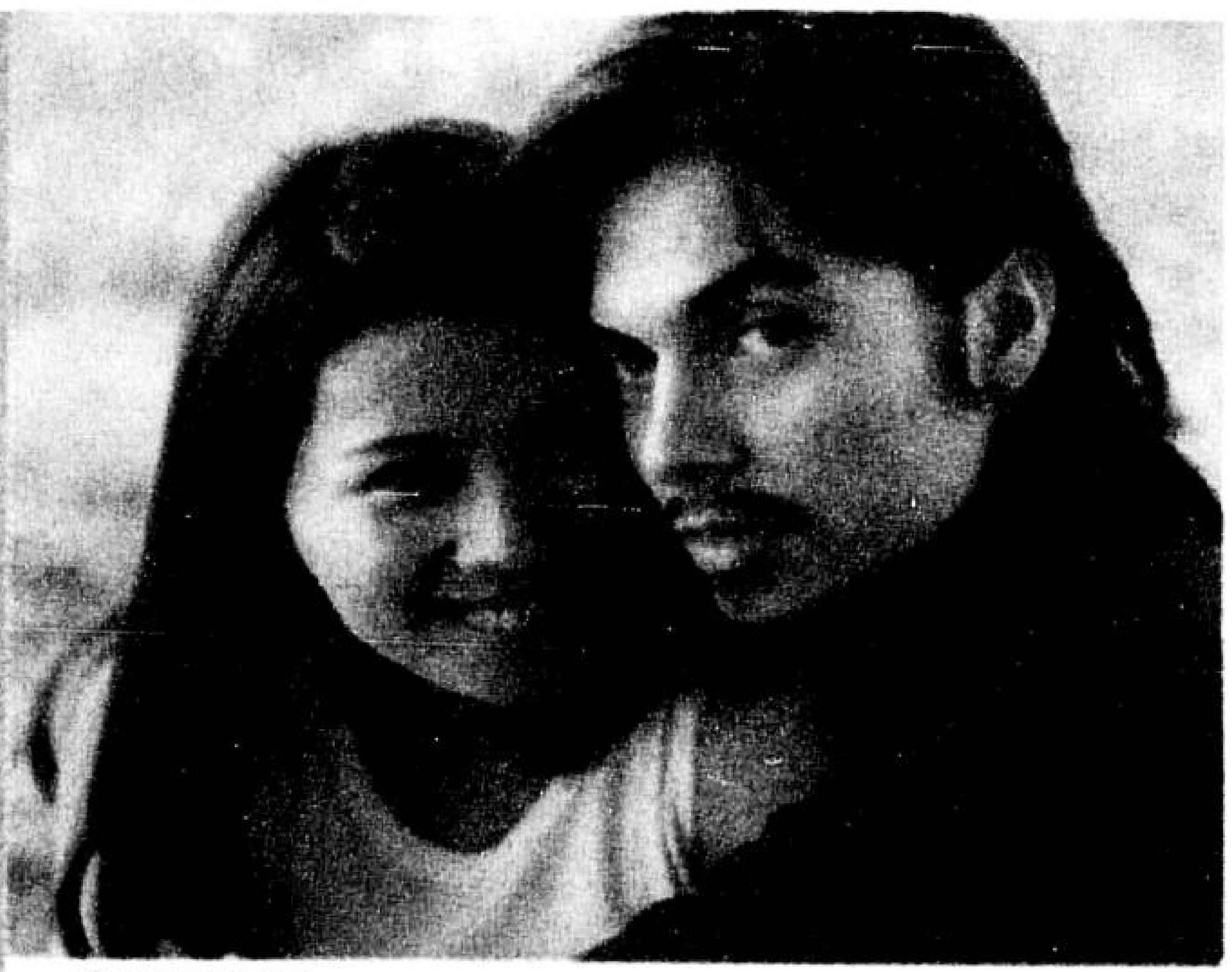
"*Like new!*" pagmamalaki mo sa akin sabay abot
ng susi—na sinuklian ko naman ng matamis
na ngiting tumagos pa sa aking puso.

Napakalaking grasiya sa tulad kong madalas
namang nag-iisa sa likod ng manibela
at sa trouble-shooting gagang-gaga.

Naalala ko tuloy ang taghoy ni Jeremiah—
"Pagod na ako sa pagsisisi," at idaragdag ko,
lalo na sa inulit-ulit na panghihinayang.

Anu't ano man, hirang,
napatatakbong muli ang pagmamahalan.

Benilda S. Santos



Cover Story, page 3

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Cover photograph by Edidie Boy Escudero

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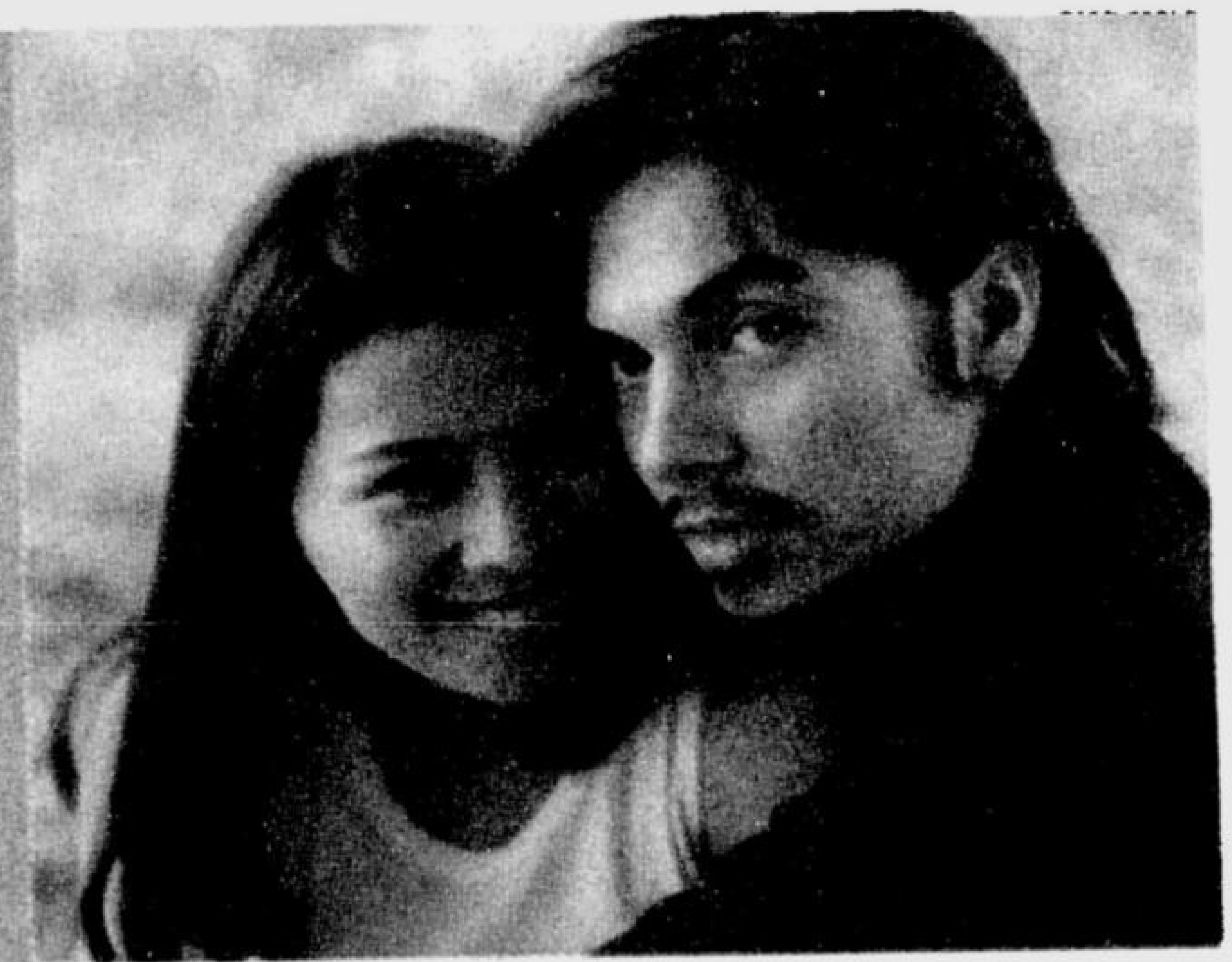

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Activist Affection

Meet the current poster couple of the Philippine Left, who are as committed to the causes they fight for as they are to each other

by [illegible]

"THIS IS REALLY BAD TIMING," SAYS RUTH CERVANTES, 25, OF THE INTERVIEW ON HER AND TEDDY CASIÑO'S LOVE LIFE. THE COUPLE HAS BARELY MADE UP AFTER A TIFF AND ISN'T EXACTLY FEELING LOVEY-DOVEY AT THE MOMENT. BUT THEY'RE ACTIVISTS, AND NOTHING'S TOO GREAT FOR LOVE OF COUNTRY. *"PARA SA BAYAN,"* THEY JEST.

Their relationship is a fine example of how love for each other can spill over to a bigger cause

Ruth, a former president of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) and now alliance officer of the newly-formed political party Bayan Muna, is the better half of the pair that's the current toast of the *tibak* circle. The other half, Teddy, is the boyish-looking secretary general of the militant and multi-sectoral alliance, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

"Right now Teddy isn't exactly my favorite person," pouts Ruth, dwelling on a missed *merienda* date and Teddy forgetting to say goodbye before leaving for a meeting. "It's a small thing, but he's done it more than once!" But, she adds with mischief in her voice, "Maybe I can get back at him this way."

Those who followed the television coverage of the historic four-day rally at the Edsa Shrine may already be familiar with Ruth. Standing onstage, the 5'1" mestiza with deep-set eyes led the crowd in chanting "Erap, Resign!" and *"Sigaw ng Bayan, arestuhin si Erap!"* But Ruth's skills as an emcee went beyond keeping the audience awake at 2 a.m. More than just rhetoric, she gave the crowd substance. Peppering her spiels with facts and figures, she convinced her listeners of the justness of their cause, citing the oil price hike, the high unemployment rate, the all-out war in Mindanao, the plummeting value of the peso. In short, Ruth helped make the Edsa shrine a giant classroom on Philippine social realities.

Just as visible is Teddy, 32, who's fast becoming a contender for the honor of being the most popular — and youngest — spokesperson in the history of the Philippine Left.

Young, intelligent and good-looking, Ruth and Teddy represent new blood in the country's mass movement. Movie and theater director Behn Cervantes once remarked that he wouldn't mind owning Ruth as a relative. Similarly, Sen. Franklin Drilon said in a recent media forum that he was all for recommending Teddy for a Cabinet position. "Maybe to replace Richard Gomez as youth and sports adviser?" laughs Teddy.

While they have become media personalities in their own right, little is known about the private lives of the two. After all, when they guest on "Today with Kris" or get interviewed by megastar Sharon Cuneta, they still talk politics.

But Ruth and Teddy are a real couple, their relationship a fine example of how love for each other spills over to a bigger cause. The pair met and fell in love within the movement, joining other known tandems in the Left, among them Satur Ocampo and Bobbie Malay, Rafael Baylosis and Lu Roque, Luis Jalandoni and Coni Ledesma, and Jose Ma. Sison and Juliet de Lima.

Both former campus journalists, Ruth and Teddy wrote stories on the plight of the oppressed sectors in their respective college publications "The Scholastican" and the UP Los Baños' "Perspective." Both raged against the deteriorating quality of Philippine education and campaigned against the repression of campus press freedom. It was in one of those CEGP conferences where the two previous CEGP presidents became really close. As guest speakers at this conference held in Cavite, the two fell to talking after finishing their presentation that evening.

"I didn't get to sleep," remembers Teddy with a laugh. As one who's always on the go — one day he's in Tuguegarao, the next he has to fly off to Davao — sleep to Teddy is very precious. But he kept awake and talked to Ruth until the wee hours of the morning. They left the conference venue together and as the bus bound for Manila went on its way, so did their friendship.

Beyond love, Teddy and Ruth look to social causes as the foundation of their relationship

"It's hard to stay angry with him when he starts looking at me with those eyes," Ruth says

"We knew each other long before then, but we had never really talked. It was like I was seeing her for the first time," he says. After that, he would text her frequently ("My cell's on subscription; cheaper that way"), asking after her health, commenting about the latest political development, whatever.

"I wondered why he was attentive. But I didn't want to assume anything," Ruth rejoins. But when Teddy once came by her house unexpectedly with a bag of *dalandan* for her cold, Ruth remembers thinking, "Hmm, *nagpapa*-cute *na ito.*"

In 1999, CEGP with Ruth as its president campaigned against Estrada's crackdown on the Manila Times and the harassment against the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Teddy, as a Bayan official, coordinated with her on all the press conferences, mass actions and other activities. The more they worked together, the more they grew to appreciate each other. The two formalized their relationship in the midst of rallies against the Estrada government. They both say, and quite sincerely so, that being part of the cause of the poor and oppressed is the strongest foundation for their relationship. "The rest — shared interests, the so-called similar wavelength — I suppose they serve as the cement," Ruth explains.

Both of them read in their spare time — Ruth admires Isabel Allende, while Teddy is a fan of F. Sionil Jose. They listen to Indigo Girls, "Romeo and Juliet" being one of Teddy's favorites, and one he can play on the guitar. Both would like to have more time for exercise "Exercise *bang maituturing yung pagtakbo-takbo sa mga* rallies from Liwasang Bonifacio to Mendiola? (Unless you consider running during rallies a form of exercise)," says Teddy. Ruth hopes she could take up taekwondo again.

Ruth keeps him sane, declares Teddy. At the end of the day, after the rallies, the countless media interviews, consultations with allied organizations and endless meetings, he looks forward to sharing the evening with Ruth, never mind that the only time they have alone is the long bus ride from the Bayan office in Sikatuna Village in Quezon City to Pasay, where Ruth lives. They seldom go out like other couples do; their schedules are too full. But the time they spend mingling with people from different walks of life, the two agree, gives them insights on each other that cannot be easily revealed by, say, the usual dates to the movies.

Says Teddy: "Ruth is quite down-to-earth and her patience is limitless. I have seen her talk to people whose political views are different from ours, to say the least, but she was able to make them give their commitment to Bayan projects, like concerts or exhibits. She can even convince people — even those who don't want to be associated with militant groups — to join rallies, and not only because she's charming either."

Ruth, on the other hand, thinks Teddy is too kind. "He doesn't know how to say no! Sometimes he stays to talk to people even if it means missing his lunch. He also never loses his temper, even when going berserk would be completely justified," she complains.

There is truth in Ruth's observations, as some members of the broadcast media would attest. In the last year, Teddy has been manhandled, hit on the head with a truncheon and dragged to jail by the police. Even during violent clashes with security guards at picket lines or with Marines guarding the streets leading to the Batasang Pambansa during the State of the Nation (SONA) rallies, Teddy has never lost his cool. Even under physical assault, the guy merely smiles, a goofy reaction that labor leader Crispin Beltran of the Kilusang Mayo Uno attributes, jokingly of course, to Teddy being hit on the head once too often. *Ka* Bel was Teddy's boss from 1994 to 1998, before he took on his current position at Bayan. The two made headlines last year when they were arrested during the dispersal of the strike at the Manila Hotel.

How does it feel knowing that either of them could get hurt in their line of work? Ruth leans forward. "I'm not afraid of that. Of course I worry about him and his safety, but the risks are inevitably part of this life we've chosen," she answers.

Ruth and Teddy were separated during the dispersal of the 2000 SONA rallies at the Batasang Pambansa. Teddy was taken to Camp Crame, while Ruth was taken and detained inside one of the buses of the Philippine National Police (PNP). There was footage of their arrest, and though her anger against the dispersal was quite evident, there was also worry. "The police grabbed him and at the time, I didn't know where they were taking him," said Ruth.

It was one of the rare times when Ruth lost her calm.

As for Teddy, it was just one of those days. "It's not that I'm brave, but that, essentially, I'm not confrontational. I don't back off, but I don't fight back when I know that it's pointless to hit back," he shrugs. "I speak out, though, but it's really the bystanders, the media who are covering the attacks, through whom I address the Filipino people."

But does he think of Ruth during those times?

"I can't help but do so, but if I can help it, I try not to because it would be distracting, and that would be dangerous. Besides, I trust her enough to know that she can take care of herself."

By the end of the interview, Ruth has thawed out considerably towards Teddy. "It's hard to stay angry with him when he starts looking at me with those eyes," she confides with some irritation directed at herself. Teddy, meanwhile, is sheepish, and gestures at the flowers on Ruth's desk. "I got her those," he says. Ruth frowns at him, but in the end, she says, "*Hmmph, maganda lang mata mo, eh.*"

They look at each other for a sustained moment, and this writer excuses herself.

Poetry

O-Mail

Pulse of the Planet on radio
notes that soon scent can be trapped
and sent digitally, that is, by e-mail.
I wait for the day, love of my life,
when in some hotel room abroad
I pluck the phone jack from a wall
to attach to a laptop, ring up
and catch your message from home.
The latest lemon meringue pie
you baked and shared with the kids
wafts into my distant ken. Our dog
you've drawn a whiff of, to make
my absence less than total. Then,
keening now to the solo nights ahead,
I smell your smell, down there,
and all is well, Mama Bitch,
wherever we are in the world.

Alfred A. Yuson

Sa Aking Kalakbay

Para kay Lyrah

May karimlang umaangkin
Sa ating mga paghakbang,
Yumakap ka nang taimtim.

Tayo ay nais pigilin,
Dumadaluyong ang ulan,
May karimlang umaangkin.

Ang hininga ko ay damhin
Sa batok mo namamaybay,
Yumakap ka nang taimtim.

Dumaan ang pusang itim
At may trahedyang iiwan;
May karimlang umaangkin.

May mga lubak na lihim.
Panganib ay nakaabang;
Yumakap ka nang taimtim.

Ngunit kahit walang ningning
Ito ang aking katawan;
Yumakap ka nang taimtim,
May karimlang umaangkin.

Enrico C. Torralba

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is accepting contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed a copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

LIVING IN THE HIGHEST

Let's Get Real On Real Change

Or do we prefer the EDSA people power shortcut?

by Pete F. Galvez

Before the Great Flood, Genesis 6:20 reports that various creatures came into Noah's Ark in pairs. So why didn't Noah swat those two flies while he had the chance?

Right after EDSA II, do we now have a dream-come-true platinum opportunity to swatting those wretched "flies" in our corrupt political system once and for all?

Before we go swashbuckling with fly swatters, it's time to do some serious pondering. From someone tasked with healing a divided nation after the American Civil War: *The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves* (Abraham Lincoln). How?

God ... is able to do IMMEASURABLY MORE than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us ...
Ephesians 3:20

EDSA I bumped off the original kleptocrat. And how enthralled we were by being a world-class role-model for bloodless revolutions! Now to disenthrall. Last week's *Time* magazine observed of EDSA I and II: *Change sometimes comes fast in the Philippines—but many things stay the same.* (Instant EDSA III, anyone?) That hasty retreat to Hawaii in February 1986 left behind the same slithering creature named *Ako Muna* (Me First) still stubbornly coiled around the Filipino psyche, which, thirteen years hence, created another Malacañang gobble-de-gold monster (the shadow-boxing variety).

(Speaking of actors, Samson was the most popular actor in the Bible. He brought the house down.)

Yes, the more perceptive agree that Erap is a blessing in disguise—a heaven-sent reality check exposing what we truly are, urging us to do something pronto. (Resign?) *Said* Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Know thyself? If I knew myself, I'd run away.*

Reality Checklist. (1) *It's hard to effect change unless people feel a compelling need to change* (Max De Pree). Can you imagine distinguished judges openly voting to suppress evidence? Only in the Philippines! A compelling need to topple Erap's *profligate empire* brought about EDSA II. But wait!

There's still that second envelope to open. It contains: (2) *Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself* (Leo Tolstoy). In this same envelope, (3) *It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them* (Alfred Adler). Item 2 presents a piercing, challenging *come to think of it.* Is anyone exempt from this? And Item 3 reminds us that *I've tried but it's so very hard to do; so why bother?* The universal plight of human nature. Yet there's this needling need to change. "Whatever I am," wrote G. K. Chesterton, "I know I am not what I ought to be." As the noted religious historian Mircea Eliade puts it, "man wants to be other than he finds himself." Indeed, (4) *It is right to be contented with what we have, never with what we are* (James Mackintosh).

People are what make political systems tick. In a recent TV talk show, Tourism's Dick Gordon hit us right between the eyes with, "What we need is not a change *of* people but a change *in* people." Real people power is real change *in* the people themselves. When people change inside, systems change.

Heart Transplant. Leo Tolstoy once more: "Man is both a spiritual and an animal being. One can move a man either by influencing his animal being or by influencing his spiritual essence. In the same way one can change the time on a clock either by moving the hands or by moving the main wheel. And just as it is better to change the time by moving the inner mechanism, so it is better to move a man—whether oneself or another person—by influencing his consciousness." Our life's Manual of Operations provides the means: (God said) [26]*I will give you a new heart—I will give you new and right desires—and put a new spirit within you. I will take out your stony hearts of sin and give you new hearts of love.* [27]*And I will put my Spirit within you so that you will [have the power to] obey my laws and do whatever I command.* (Ezekiel 36:26-27 TLB). This, friends, is a spiritual heart transplant one must be willing to undergo toward real change from within. With guaranteed results: *God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us ...* (Ephesians 3:20).

Two Presidents. Now let's look at George W. and Gloria, brought to power on the same day, Saturday, January 20, 2001. Other things in common: The fathers of both were presidents. Both took over from former presidents tainted with glaring scandal. In their inaugural addresses both emphasized high standards of character and moral leadership by example. CNN noted that George W's address gave biblical principles to stress his points. While Gloria's address and public interviews reveal her avowed dependence on God (she begins her day reading the Bible).

Solomon was famous for his wisdom, not because he knew everything, but because *he knew how little he knew.* He depended on God's wisdom, wisdom to know what to do and the courage and divine power to follow through on it. And we can't separate God's mighty protection from His wisdom. Thus, throughout Solomon's reign Israel had her Golden Age. By experience Solomon guarantees, *In anything you do, put God first and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success* (Proverbs 3:6 TLB).

One nation founded on biblical principles is today's only superpower and the most techno-advanced—the United States of America. At least sixteen of her past presidents are known avid Bible readers, starting with the first—George Washington. He declared: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without the Bible." William McKinley (25th U.S. president): "The more profoundly we study this wonderful Book ... the better citizens we will become." Again, Solomon: *Righteousness exalts a nation . . .* (Proverbs 14:34).

True Real Change. Christ's main business is to effect real change in people's lives. The Book of Life defines real life change: "*. . . if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*" (2 Corinthians 5:17) Not just slightly modified, but a radically transformed life — a life of discipline based on righteousness. (Righteousness is simply right relationship with God and fellow man.)

With real change comes divine wisdom and guidance that leads to real success. A saying goes: *The shortest distance between you and real success is a straight life..*

And a reminder: *Keep changing. When you're through changing, you're through* (Bruce Fairfield Barton).

A sure antidote to EDSA III is real change. *In* people. *In* us. *In* Christ. And we get the government we deserve.

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by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

They've been married 21 years and have six children. And by the way, he's gay.

When Machismo Gets *Machismis*

HIS RADIO ALIAS SAYS IT ALL: *TITA* SWARDING. HIS EARLY EVENING PROGRAM OVER DZRH, "SHOWBIZ CHIKA ATBP.," CONFIRMS IT: A FLUTTERY QUILT OF THE LATEST GOSSIP AND SCANDALS IN LOCAL SHOWBIZ. IN FACT, ROMULO BARRAMEDA ESPEÑA, 49, WOULD BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT HE'S UNABASHEDLY GAY AND HAS KNOWN IT SINCE HE WAS THIS HIGH AND MOUTHING OFF INTO EMPTY *CONDENSADA* CANS, PRETENDING TO BE *TIYA* DELY, THAT VASTLY POPULAR AGONY AUNT OF THE '60S.

The secret, reveals Swarding, is their total acceptance of what he is: no illusions, no false hopes, no secrets

The seventh in a brood of nine and the youngest boy, Swarding remembers being cosseted by his mother and bundled off in his sisters' flouncy petticoats. But he had a childhood sweetheart as well, confesses this former disc jockey, a second cousin who was promptly whisked off by their scandalized elders. "She's now a successful *doktora* in the States, but she never got married. Maybe she's waiting for me," he adds.

Orphaned at 11, the young Swarding found his way to Manila where he supported himself through high school as a shine boy ("shine girl," he amends), a newspaper vendor and later, an entrepreneur. "I started this business of renting out *komiks* at Feati University in Sta. Cruz for five centavos a read. In 1967, that was big money."

With a Communications Arts degree tucked under his girdle, Swarding made his way to a radio station where he started out as a jock playing 100 percent Original Pilipino Music from such upstarts in 1974 as Sharon Cuneta, Imelda Papin, Eva Eugenio and Claire de la Fuente. The success of his "Super Tunog Pinoy FM" led to his being pirated by RH, which promptly gave him a showbiz-oriented show titled, "Scandal." In 1989, Swarding won a Golden Dove award from the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP), "the first gay broadcaster to be so honored," preens this Sorsogon native.

But success has its perils. A young fan, a 15-year-old housekeeper, soon took a fancy to him. "I had a dedication portion in my show and she requested the song, 'Sweet Baby.' *Eh Bisaya*, so it came out as *swet bibi*. I cracked, '*Ay, wala kaming bibi* (duck); *meron lang, pato* (goose).' She was amused. *Ayun*, she started hanging around my booth, bringing me chocolates, flowers, small gifts. *Niligawan talaga ako* (she really courted me)." He claims she knew he was gay from the start but that she really liked him.

Johnny Villena

Of course, as most DJs go, Swarding had the habit of signing off with an endearment. "I love you!" he would coo to his listeners, not realizing that one young Cebuana took the declaration seriously. She camped out at the station and once, when she refused to go home, Swarding took her along to a party. "*Ayun*, I got drunk and before I knew it, it happened." With a pregnant minor on his hands, Swarding had no choice but to quickly settle her in Cebu, afraid of what such attachment could do to his career. A church wedding was out of the question, he recalls, "gays not being the best candidates for religious rites." But the girl persisted, even driving off Swarding's live-in boyfriend whom he was sending to school. "*Matapang talaga si* Betchay," he says of Beatriz, his wife of 21 years now.

Indeed, with six children in tow, the relationship seems to have flourished. The secret, reveals Swarding, is their total acceptance of what he is: no illusions, no false hopes, no secrets. "I always say, *magpakatotoo ka* (be yourself)!" Such openness has led Betchay to lay down a basic rule in their relationship: "No girlfriends allowed, only boyfriends. At least with men, she said, there's no risk of pregnancy. *Walang sabit.*"

***The rule to live and love by, according toSwarding:* "Magpakatotoo ka!"**

We are family: (from left) Niño Ian, Swarding, Betchay, Veronica and Tyric

He takes her at her word, dallying with a string of boyfriends but keeping his feet rooted to the ground despite the occasional blind item in the tabloids. "I know what men want from gays – only material stuff, so I don't allow myself to get deeply involved." Public censure has been virtually nonexistent, he says. "It's the way I carry myself in public. I respect myself, *hindi ako malandi o matakaw sa lalaki* (I'm not promiscuous), so people have no cause to sneer. I can separate my radio image from my private conduct."

His children know this as well, he says. He has six. *"Kagustuhan na rin ni* Betchay (it's all Betchay's fault)," he deadpans. He only wanted two or three to take care of him in his lonely old age but they kept coming and he has no regrets. "They're the best part of this marriage; they're all very loving, very smart and very open." It helped that he told them about his being gay early on, telling them that his being *Tita* Swarding has provided for them well. Now they're like buddies, he claims. "When we go to the mall, my eldest, who's 18, would put his arms around my shoulders and whisper, *'O, kunwari mag-Papa tayo. Huwag ka nang titingin sa ibang lalaki* (Let's pretend to be boyfriends. Now don't you go off eyeing other men)."

A few rules do apply: He remains the stern father and family disciplinarian and the children know it. The household routine has been deconstructed, though: he cooks and goes to market, she does the laundry and drives the car. It all works out fine, Swarding says, although romance has taken a back seat to family togetherness. "We rarely go out as a couple," he says of his wife. "It's always a family outing, usually to a resort." Birthdays, anniversaries and Valentine's Day are not particularly special events. "I guess we're too busy, with Betchay promoting her own radio productions, including my show at dwSS titled, *'Sa Totoong-Totoo Lang'* (if truth be told).

It's a phrase he finds handy this time. If truth be told, says Swarding, "this is a good marriage and a satisfying relationship. But it's not true love," he confides. His true love, his "soul mate," he describes, would be a man who is his "physical and intellectual equal and who is all mine. *Sarili ko lang siya."* Even Betchay knows this, claims Swarding, and she lets him be.

It's definitely the stuff of gossip talk shows, but love has its own logic, one that *Tita* Swarding and Betchay apparently understand and accept.

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AMOUNT OF BENEFITS

The amount of benefits will be doubled in case of death due to accident before the age of 80.

Age	2 units	4 units	6 units	8 units	10 units	20 units
50	P100,000	200,000	300,000	400,000	500,000	1,000,000
51	95,560	191,120	286,680	382,240	477,800	955,600
52	91,320	182,640	273,960	365,280	456,600	913,200
53	87,240	174,480	261,720	348,960	436,200	872,400
54	80,440	160,880	241,320	321,760	402,200	804,400
55	76,560	153,120	229,680	306,240	382,800	765,600
56	72,600	145,200	217,800	290,400	363,000	726,000
57	68,600	137,200	205,800	274,400	343,000	686,000
58	64,720	129,440	194,160	258,880	323,600	647,200
59	61,000	122,000	183,000	244,000	305,000	610,000
60	57,360	114,720	172,080	229,440	286,800	573,600
61	53,880	107,760	161,640	215,520	269,400	538,800
62	50,600	101,200	151,800	202,400	253,000	506,000
63	47,520	95,040	142,560	190,080	237,600	475,200
64	44,360	88,720	133,080	177,440	221,800	443,600
65	41,640	83,280	124,920	166,560	208,200	416,400
66	39,080	78,160	117,240	156,320	195,400	390,800
67	36,720	73,440	110,160	146,880	183,600	367,200
68	34,480	68,960	103,440	137,920	172,400	344,800
69	32,400	64,800	97,200	129,600	162,000	324,000
70	30,480	60,960	91,440	121,920	152,400	304,800

ADDITIONAL CASH INCOME IN THE FORM OF DIVIDENDS*

e.g. For 20 units of Coverage	End of Year	
Age	10th yr.	15th yr.
50	P228,219	P541,000
51	229,373	541,788
52	230,116	542,126
53	231,291	542,454
54	226,310	528,177
55	227,163	527,617
56	227,474	525,349
57	227,167	521,350
58	226,705	516,649
59	226,053	511,064
60	224,648	503,358
61	222,970	494,782
62	220,738	485,064
63	218,275	474,829
64	214,095	461,485
65	210,437	449,730
66	202,693	429,717
67	135,743	291,822
68	129,158	275,187
69	122,507	258,336
70	115,692	240,956

AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS

Pay monthly	P 272.95	543.95	814.95	1,086.95	1,358.95	2,717.95
Pay quarterly	802.45	1,599.20	2,395.95	3,195.60	3,995.30	7,990.75
Pay semi-annually	1,555.80	3,100.50	4,645.20	6,195.60	7,746.00	15,492.30
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   SSS/GSIS: ____________ **TIN:** ____________
   Date of Birth: (mo/day/yr) ____________ **Age:** ______
2. **I wish to have** (amount of coverage depends on the number of units and age at effectivity of policy)
   ☐ 2 units ☐ 4 units ☐ 6 units ☐ 8 units ☐ 10 units
   ☐ 12 units ☐ 14 units ☐ 16 units ☐ 18 units ☐ 20 units
3. **I wish to pay my premiums:**
   ☐ Annually ☐ Semi-Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly
4. **In case of premium default:** I elect
   (Check one box only)
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6. **Beneficiary:** ____________________
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Z12 01B3I

Cover Story

by Eric S. Caruncho

photographs by Eddie Boy Escudero

Friends,
Lovers and Playmates

The glamorous may really be different from you and me, but this gorgeous rock star-and-actress couple could also be the sweethearts next door

Not a textbook relationship

"I WAS EXPECTING IT TO BE WEIRD," SAYS IRA CRUZ. "I MEAN, IF I SEE OTHER PEOPLE NAKED IN THE MOVIES, OKAY *LANG*. BUT IF I SEE SOMEONE I KNOW NAKED, IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFERENT."

ESPECIALLY IF THAT SOMEONE IS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, AND THE THEATER IS FILLED WITH HOWLING, HYPERVENTILATING MALES, STEAMING UP THE ATMOSPHERE WITH PALPABLE LUST. "WEIRD" MIGHT BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

> *"Gusto ko yung relaks lang tayo – kung anong mangyayari, mangyayari"*

Heartthrob guitarist of Passage (not as big as Side A, but better-looking), Ira is talking about the time he went to see *"Gatas,"* the much-hyped launch vehicle (and we're not talking space shuttles here) for his girlfriend, actress Mylene Dizon. In fact, months of advance publicity for the film had centered on Mylene's alleged pectoral augmentation for the role. Not until "Booba" came along has a film's critical and commercial success rested more on the star's, uh, endowments.

But the experience wasn't as weird as it might have been.
"Nakita na niya kasi ang stills" (He's seen the stills), says Mylene.
"*Na*-psyche *ko na ang sarili ko,"* says Ira.
All in a day's work for this hot young couple and further proof that the glamorous are different from you and me.

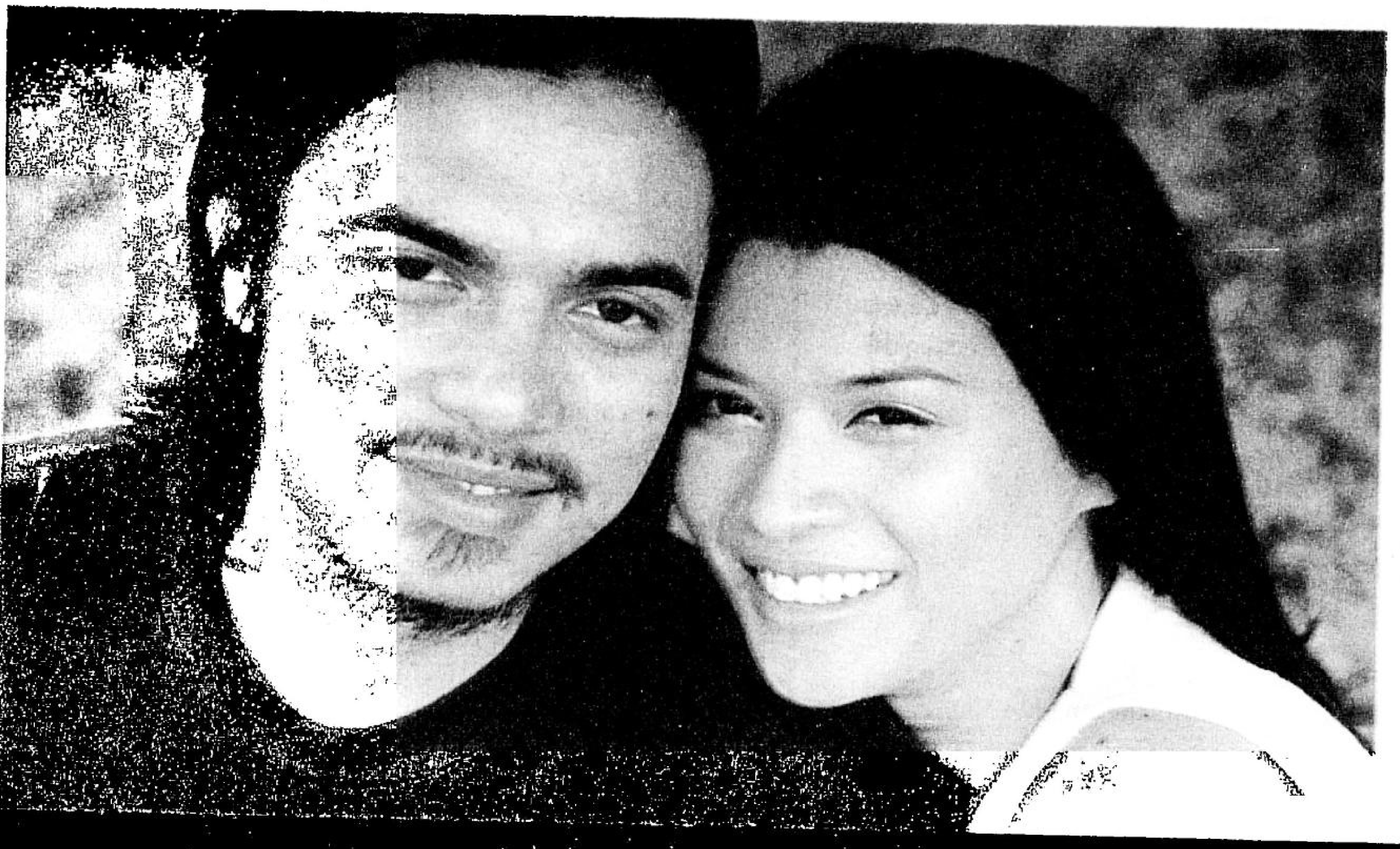
Well, maybe not that different. Strip away the glam and Ira and Mylene might be the attractive young couple next door. But there's more to the relationship than is immediately apparent.

"We're basically playmates," confesses Mylene, 24. *"Simple lang kami. Kulitan lang, masaya na kami. Hilata lang, kulitan nang kulitan buong araw, nagkikilitian lang, o habulan – laro"* (We're happy teasing each other. Just lying around, having fun all day, tickling or chasing each other, playing)

Lurid images of local showbiz Babylon notwithstanding, life is not all sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll for this couple. In fact, Saturday night is more likely than not to find them in Ira's pad, just chilling.

"Ayoko ng relationship *na masyadong* textbook *– nababato ako doon"* (I don't want a textbook relationship – it bores me), says Mylene. *"Gusto ko yung relaks lang tayo – kung anong mangyayari, mangyayari"* (I want it relaxed – what will happen will happen).

"That's our rule," adds Ira, 28. "No pressure."



The couple met in 1992 as classmates at De La Salle University, where Mylene was studying Communication Arts and Ira was enrolled in Humanities. But both were in serious relationships – in fact, Ira's girlfriend at the time had just given birth to his child. Being *barkada* prevented them from looking at each other as more than friends, even after they both broke up with their respective partners. But somehow, they found themselves crossing the line.

"We don't have an anniversary date, *kasi hindi namin alam kung paano nangyari o kailan – nangyari na lang"* (We don't know how it happened or when – it just happened), says Mylene.

"Noong kaming dalawa na lang ang naiwan sa bahay" (When it was just the two of us left in the house), adds Ira.

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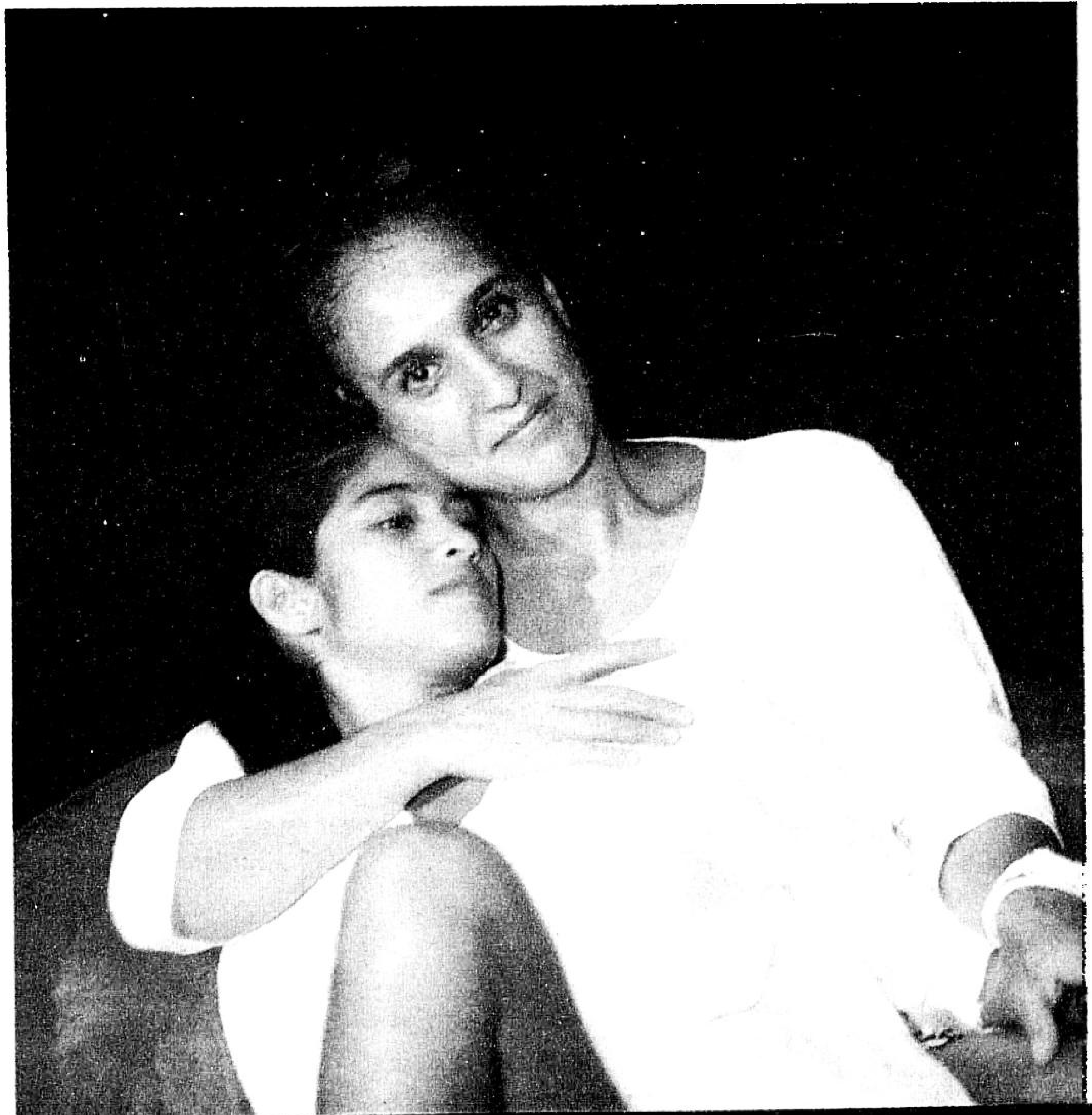
Girls in Love

— *by Ruel S. De Vera*
photographs by Mike Alquinto

Free spirits Aslie Aslanian and Triccia David share a bond that challenges gender stereotypes

LIKE ANY OTHER LOVING COUPLE, ASLIE ASLANIAN AND TRICCIA DAVID DO EVERYTHING TOGETHER. FROM THE MOMENT THEY WAKE UP TO THE TIME THEY GET TO THE WORKPLACE, THEY'RE INSEPARABLE. THAT "WORKPLACE" IS SANCTUM*UNMASCT, THAT COOL, COZY HANGOUT IN INTRAMUROS THAT TRICCIA OWNS AND ASLIE HELPS MANAGE. THEY'RE UNSTOPPABLY AFFECTIONATE, HANDS ALWAYS TOUCHING, ARMS ALWAYS ENTWINED. YET THEY'RE NEITHER LESBIANS NOR BISEXUALS. "IT'S NOT THAT WE HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST IT," ASLIE EXPLAINS, "IT'S JUST THAT IT'S NOT WHAT WE ARE." WHATEVER IT IS, THERE IS A PALPABLE ENERGY BETWEEN THEM.

They're simply two women who love each other. "We don't get attracted to other women," Aslie goes on, "and we do get attracted to men. But we love each other." Triccia says that she loves Aslie "not for being a woman, but because she's Aslie." In other words, Aslie could be a man, woman, or a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle, and Triccia would still love her, and vice versa. It is an extraordinary pairing. Schooled in the States, Triccia, 31, is short, slender and dusky with an irresistibly husky voice that sounds heavenly when used to read out loud her soulful poetry. Armenian by blood, Aslie, 35, is pale, tall and big-boned, with a razor-sharp eye for fashion.



Triccia and Aslie chose love against the odds

Together, they seem like one person. "In truth, we're mirrors," Aslie smiles. "What we look like on the outside is what the other really is, deep within."

THEY first met when Aslie was 12 and Triccia, 8. Next door neighbors in Dasmariñas Village, Aslie and Triccia barely knew each other, though they wound up playing kickball together in the park. At 14, Triccia left for the United States, eventually graduating from St. Louis University in 1992. After staying in the country and studying at a local university for three years, Aslie decided she wanted to pursue fashion merchandising and, after graduating from a prestigious Montreal university, worked in Canada. While their respective siblings kept in touch and visited, the two never saw each other during all that.

That all changed in 1998, when Triccia's sister Tracy decided to get married in Bali, Indonesia in 1998. She invited Aslie, and so Aslie and Triccia got to see each other for the first time since childhood. Despite some early wariness, the two hit it off and found some strange feelings entering the picture. Both heterosexuals, they struggled to figure out what was going on. "All these thoughts and all this fear was there," Triccia, who admits she was homophobic back then, explains. "It was a strong feeling inside that said 'I really like her,'" Aslie says. "It was instant. It couldn't be anything but love." Triccia admits there was a degree of physical attraction but it went beyond that. "Because of the rapport we had, I could speak to her on a level that's beyond the surface. It's very spiritual, not just mental. It's very real and down-to-earth. I'd never experienced that with a woman before. The feelings were more than physical and had a great degree of passion." It was the first manifestation of a bond that was stronger than anything they would ever experience despite all the doubts.

The two hung out the remaining two days, enjoying each other's presence. Each thought about telling each other the truth, but, because of a series of events, including an accident that resulted in Aslie spraining her ankle, they never got to tell each other what they really felt. Thus they walked separate paths again. The next day, Aslie returned to Manila.

BUT some things conquer even the distance of oceans – namely e-mail. Upon her return to Manila, Aslie called Triccia, encouraging her to get e-mail, "because I was already going to confess." Triccia eventually returned to Boulder, Colorado and procured e-mail. After two exchanges, Aslie confessed. "I feel like I'm bungee jumping,"

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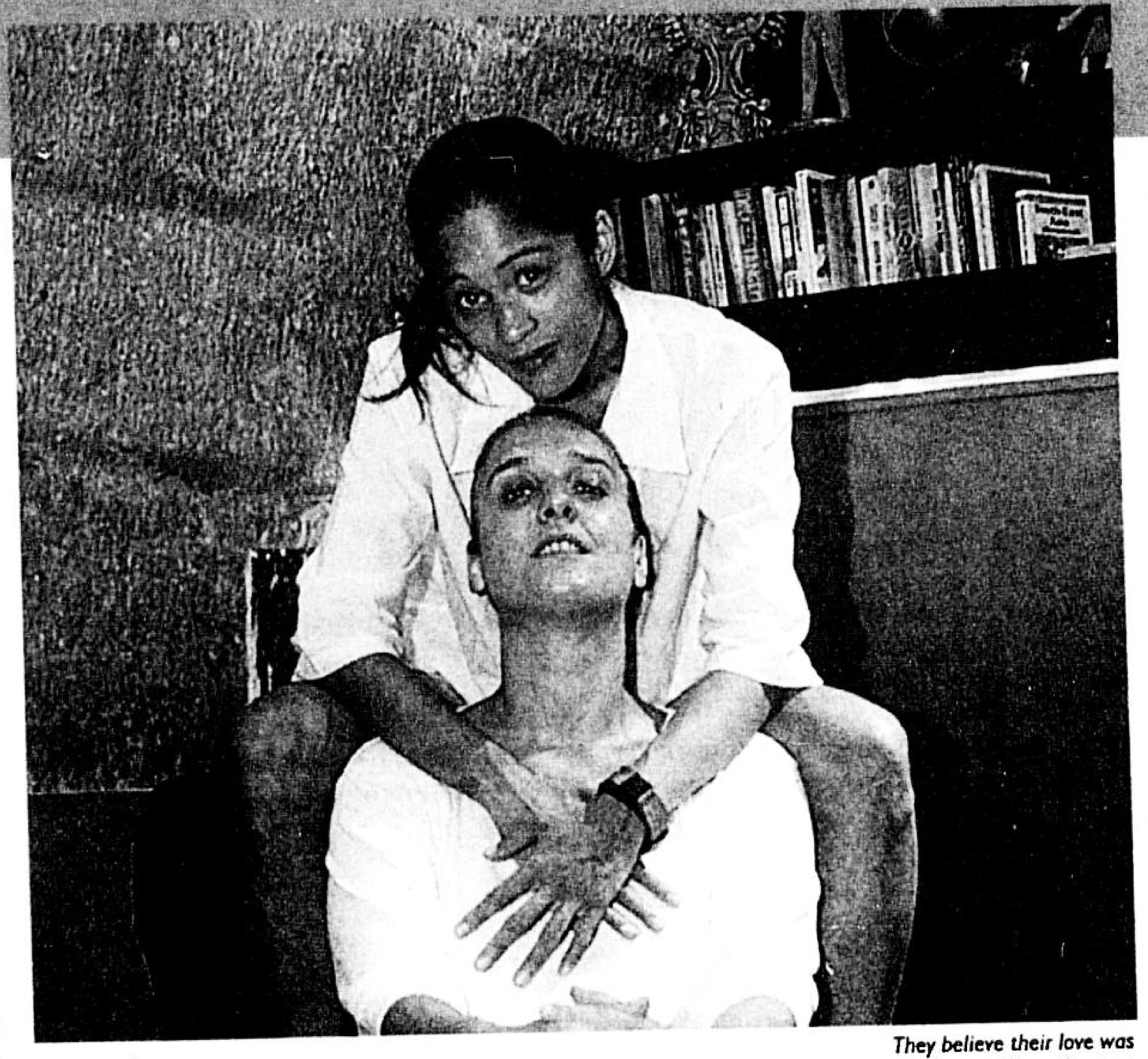
GIRLS...from page 11

Aslie wrote, explaining everything she was going through. "I was in complete shock," Triccia remembers. "Was I ready? Should I just forget about it? But in the meantime, I was happy! I was walking around with a smile." Triccia took three days to respond, with Aslie anxiously awaiting her message.

During those three days, Triccia was helping check in some musicians for a concert. Popular American musician Chris Isaak was quite taken by Triccia and gave her free tickets to his concert. During the concert, Isaak jumped down, walked over to Triccia and serenaded her. "All the girls around me were freaking out," Triccia says. "I was just in shock. But then I said to myself, 'Love must be in the air.'" So she wrote back, telling how Chris Isaak had serenaded her, and yet, she felt "a million times more ecstatic (about Aslie) than Chris Isaak serenading me." An ocean away, Aslie went, "Yes!"

They then proceeded to have a wonderful time e-mailing and calling each other for four months. "The distance gave us time to get to know one another really well," Triccia adds. And there would be more. Aslie flew to Montreal to be with her family, and, in January, they agreed that Triccia would drive five hours from New York. She arrived with a single yellow rose for Aslie. They were finally together and they finally kissed. "It was fireworks," Triccia gushes. "It was the best! We just melted together."

The two became inseparable in Montreal, and Aslie drove back with Triccia to New York. They also settled down to the difficult task of telling family and friends what was between them. Some relatives were immediately accepting; others were not. "We were being told not to be too affectionate in public," Aslie remembers.



They believe their love was destined from the start

The two then flew back to Manila just days apart, hooking up again as soon as they arrived. Now, they faced life together in Manila. "From the moment she came here, we weren't afraid," Aslie remembers. Accepting an invitation from friend Erich Edralin, Aslie became production manager of Erich's Adrenaline Productions, as well as a regular at the late, lamented hotspot ABG's. "At the same time, we were discovering that Triccia was a very good writer and an excellent speaker," Aslie remembers, with Triccia winding up emceeing and doing some spoken word performances.

In 1999, Triccia flew back to the States to attend an aunt's wedding and Aslie flew to Toronto to attend a friend's wedding. They checked out the New York poetry reading scene with Triccia taking in the open mic scene. So the two were already thinking of transplanting the idea to Manila. But in the meantime, Aslie had to go home. But Triccia wasn't coming with her.

"This was difficult," Aslie says, "because Triccia wasn't sure she was going to come back to Manila, because she had been bitten by the writing bug." All of Aslie's fears haunted her as she came home in October. "I was terrified it was over."

WHILE Aslie was keeping up a brave front, Triccia was biding her time. "I was confronting my inner demons, faced myself. It was very difficult. I was also trying to understand what had happened. I think it was too much at once." But ultimately, she had to make a choice. During one phone call, Aslie told her, "Choose love." And Triccia knew she had to. In December, she came back to Manila — and into Aslie's life for good. She also had a mission. "We're going to do the spoken word," Triccia told Aslie.

Shortly after, Triccia and Aslie set up a series of poetry readings at Kuh Ledesma's Republic of Malate, plugging literature and performance into the Malate set's consciousness for a good six months. Even as the ROM readings were good, the couple yearned to have a hang-out of their own. A trip to the chambers of Intramuros, then being prepared for commercial use, yielded just the place. With the help of Triccia's father, Rey David, the two went about making their dream a reality, beginning in July, 2000. For six months, they toiled, doing all the little things until in December 2000, they opened Sanctum at Intramuros' Puerta Isabel II, "a café where we can entertain people, have conversation, have poetry, have open mic all the time." Their relationship has also grown to encompass all the possible aspects of any real partnership — emotional, spiritual and sexual. Shortly after her return, Triccia moved in with Aslie, and so they are living together in every sense of the word.

Now they're pouring their considerable energies into turning the eclectic Sanctum into a profitable venture. There are other dreams in the mix, as well. "We do want to get a place of our own to live in," Aslie says.

THEY certainly never imagined this would happen to them. "If anybody told me this would happen, I would tell them, 'You are on drugs! Go away,'" Triccia guffaws. Their bond continues to evolve. "She's very down to earth," Triccia says of Aslie, "I'm very universal, philosophical." They both cook, but not too much. "You look at Aslie and she says she is a big girl, but deep inside, she is a little girl," Triccia smiles. "She cuddles, whines and cries." Yet Aslie is also the more straightforward one. They have the little silly fights that all couples have and get over. Yes, they give validation to the cliché of loving the other's flaws. "All this makes me love her more," Triccia notes in all seriousness. She reads to Aslie, or they talk, before they fall asleep. "Triccia is more into tinkering with mechanical stuff, and I'm more into stuff to wear," Aslie laughs.

"We don't think of each other in the future," Triccia continues. "We just look at the now. We don't worry about it." The strange love that drew them together across sea and convention has only grown stronger and they're still learning from each other. The unique nature of their relationship, its bending of gender stereotypes, does not faze them at all. "I now believe it was destined from the start," Aslie says resolutely. "We do realize how lucky we are. After all the pain I've gone through, this was the reward for being true to myself."

Despite the disapproval and the distance, these two women in love have kept it together, and according to them, kept it real. Aslie believes that they've survived partly because the basis of their relationship is truth: "No matter how painful, how scary." Triccia concludes, holding Aslie's hand tightly in hers, that "the level of our trust is huge, our love transcends all boundaries, and whatever happens, things end the same every evening: I'm going to be in her arms and she's going to be in mine."

The Word

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

The Blessedness of Weeping

The "upside-down kingdom" of God is the exact opposite of the kingdoms of the world where the rich, famous and powerful are the superstars

IN LUKE 6:17, 20-26, JESUS OF NAZARETH WAS ADDRESSING A SMALL CROWD OF LISTENERS AMONG WHOM WERE THOSE WHO APPEARED LIKE "WEEPING": THE POOR, THE HUNGRY AND THE REJECTS OF SOCIETY.

In Jewish society during Jesus' time, the poor, the hungry, the powerless, the lepers and the sinners were among the rejects of society along with the women and children who were legally branded as "second class citizens." In the Gospel, it was precisely these "good-for-nothing" characters whom Jesus chose to establish his Kingdom.

This "upside-down kingdom" of God is the exact opposite of the kingdoms of the world where the rich, famous and powerful are the superstars. In the Kingdom of God, the main characters are precisely those who are belittled, reviled, ridiculed, disenfranchised and demolished by the big shots of the world. These "children of the Kingdom," even today, are depicted as those "who weep now because they are rejected, insulted and numbered among criminals on account of the Son of Man." (v.22) "Blessed are you who weep now," Jesus said to them, "for you will laugh…rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for a great reward awaits you." (v.23)

So you see, not all "who are weeping now" are necessarily "blessed" in the context of today's Gospel on the Beatitudes (Mt. 5 and Lk. 6). For there are all sorts of people weeping: the weeping of a compassionate social worker, the weeping of an embarrassed loser, the weeping of a self-pitying detained convict, the weeping of a repentant sinner, the weeping of an angry and vindictive psychopath, the weeping of a hungry street child, the weeping of a Loren Legarda-Leviste or a Cardinal Sin over the insensitive jig of a triumphant T.A. Oreta, the weeping of a million people at Edsa on the morning of January 20, 2001.

But if you weep "on account of the Son of Man," if you weep and suffer pursuing the truth wherever it leads you, if you mourn the victory of evil and the reign of darkness and decay around you, if you weep risking your life to give witness to the values of the Kingdom, then you are blessed indeed according to that Man preaching on the plain. "Rejoice, laugh and leap for joy for amazing graces are in store for you in heaven." (v.23) As for those who have chosen to belong to another kingdom built on money, power and popularity as the beginning and end of their life on earth, that's another story (v. 24-26). When it's their turn to weep, those who were weeping then will now be there for them—to confront them, yes, and to heal them.

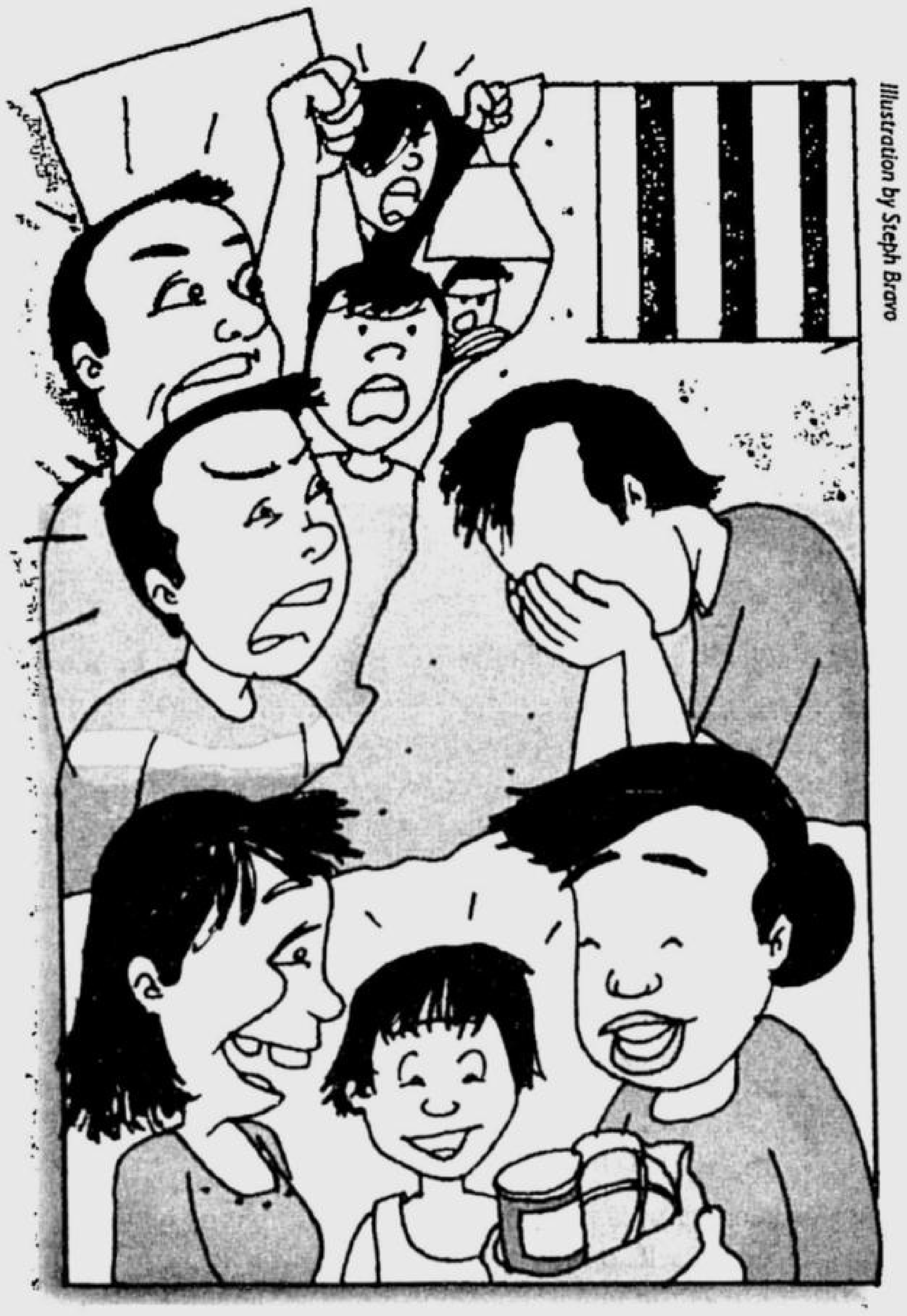


Illustration by Steph Bravo

A Future Not Our Own
(Archbishop Oscar Romero)

It helps now and then to step back and take the long view.
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
Of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying
That the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

That is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effect far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way.
An opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end result, but that is the difference
Between the Master Builder and worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.

(Arch. Romero was shot while saying Mass. He died for his convictions.)

Correction:
In my column, "Hello, Jubilee!, Goodbye, Jubilee" (SIM, Jan. 28, 2001, page 12, 4th from the last paragraph), the date 16 November 2001 stands corrected. It should be 16 January 2001, to make sense. I am not a prophet.

Post-Jubilee Call!
My book, "Hello, Jubilee!" is available at the Claretian Bookstore (8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, QC) and at CMY (tel. 732-8268, call Joe). "The Jubilee is not over yet. The Jubilee tree is still blooming and bearing much fruit. The Jubilee prophecy still has much to reveal. Wondrous epiphanies are forthcoming. Let us open our hearts and prepare for a homecoming."

COVER from page 11

Both of them feel that being friends first, and having no major secrets from each other, are definite pluses in their relationship. Even then, Mylene was already doing television (a magazine show called "'Kada") while Ira, a second-generation musician (dad Alex was the saxophone player of Pinoy rock legend Anakbayan) was already playing in bands. There were no major surprises sprung when they decided to become a twosome while pursuing their respective careers.

"He keeps me glued to the ground," says Mylene of Ira. "Theoretically, with my launching movie, *dapat* feeling *artista na ako* with matching entourage. *Pero pagtatawanan lang niya ako pag nagkaganoon*" (He'll just laugh at me if that happens).

Ira does admit to having a few misgivings about show business, specially when Mylene has to do the de rigueur torrid love scenes.

"I know it's work," he says. "If there's something to be jealous about, maybe I would get jealous. But so far, there hasn't been any. *Kung magselos pa ako dahil doon* (if I have to get jealous about that), *parang ang* corny *naman.*"

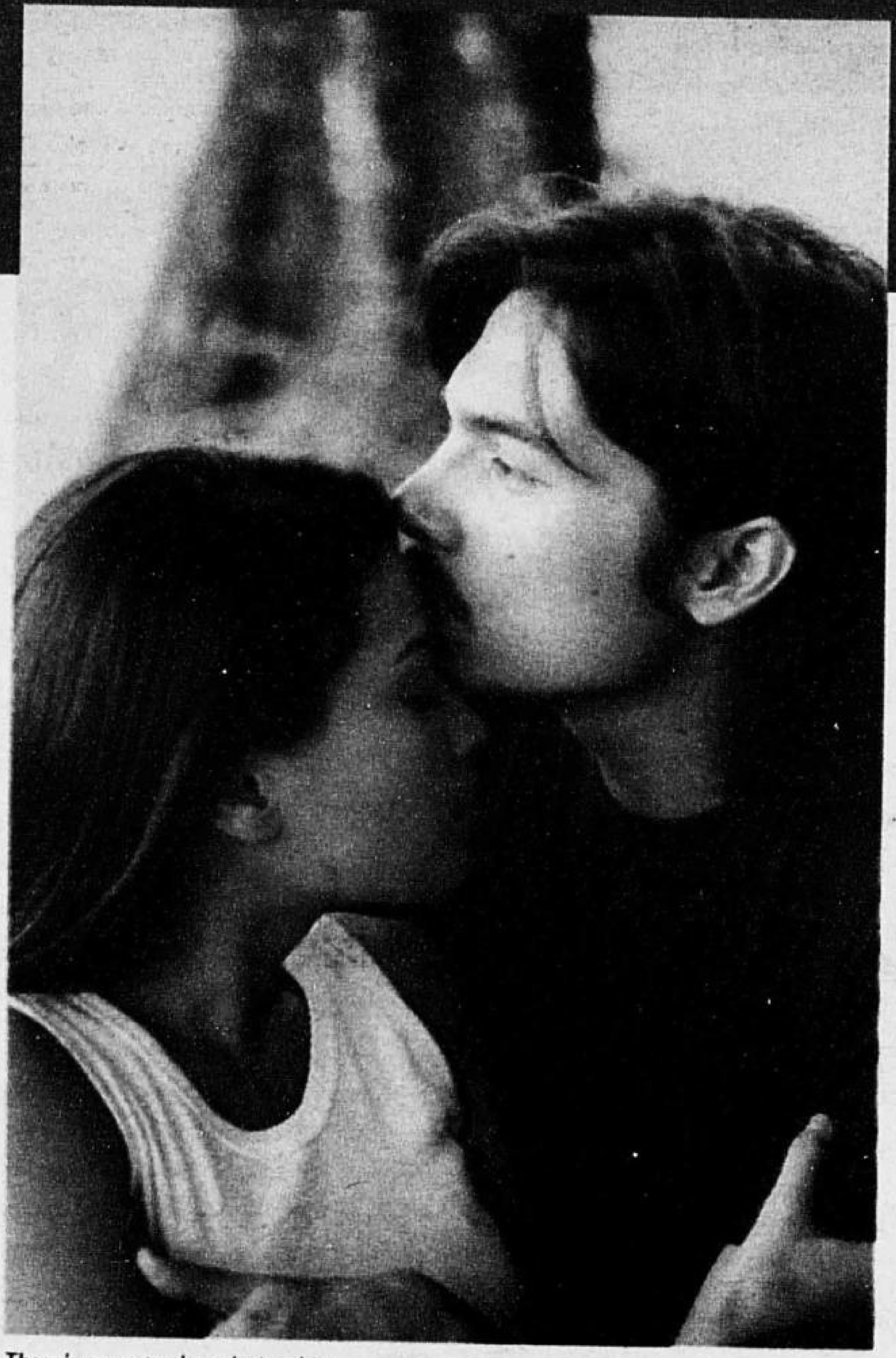
Besides, says Mylene, most people who saw the movie soon forgot about how many times they saw her breasts. Mixing metaphors, she explains: "It's really part of the story. It's not sticking out like a sore thumb."

Right now, Ira and Mylene are enjoying their laid-back lifestyle, and there's no rush to push the relationship further. Ira still lives with his father, while Mylene has her own place. The idea of moving in together hasn't even occurred to them.

All in good time.

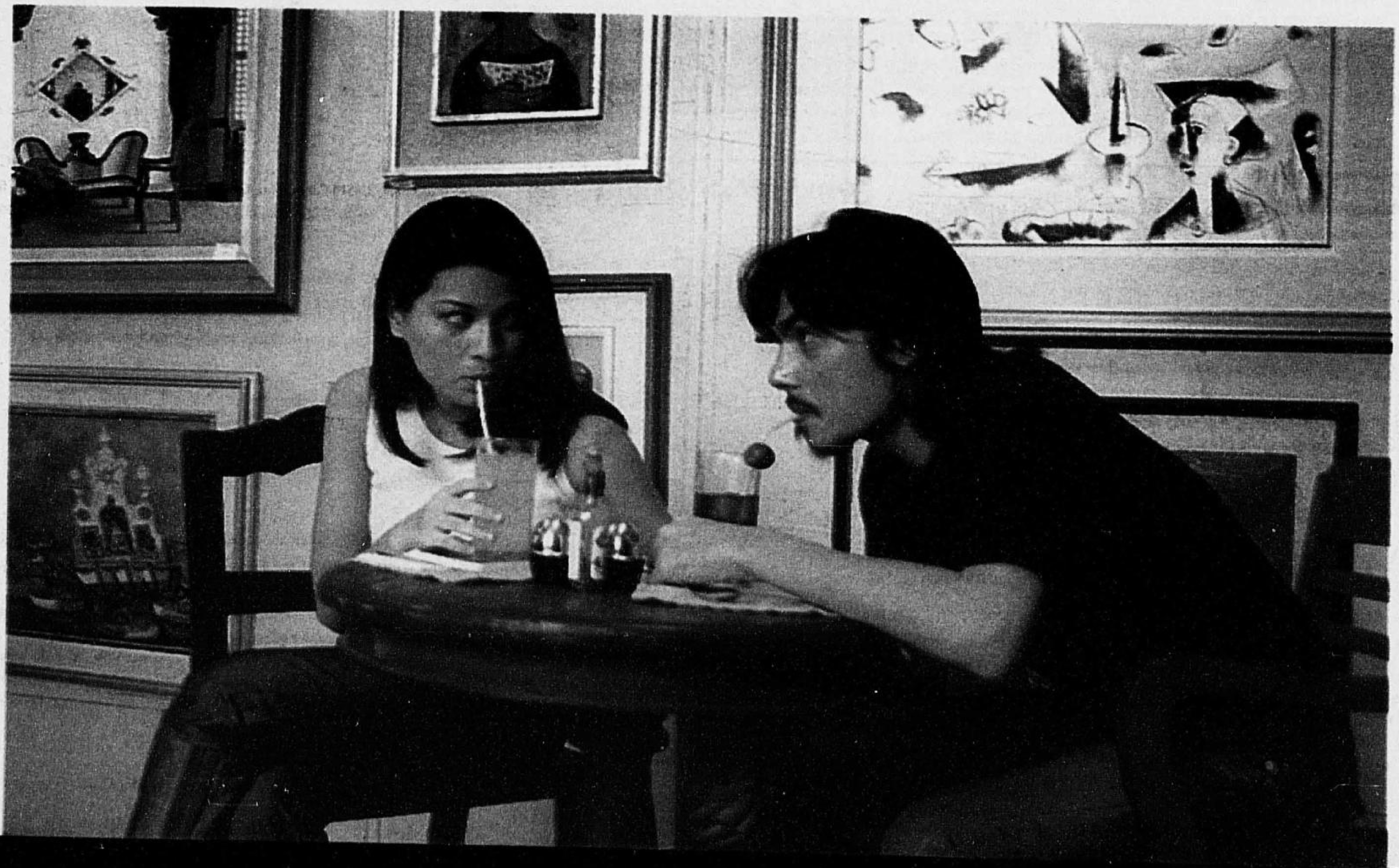
"Kung ukol, bubukol" (If it's meant to be, it will happen), says Mylene.

Words to live by.



There's more to the relationship than is immediately apparent

Drink to me only with thine eyes: Mylene and Ira cooling off



Art

Desaparecidos, solo exhibit by painting, installation and performance artist Ronaldo Ruiz at the British Council Information Centre, Taipan Place, Emerald Ave., Ortigas, Pasig. Till. Feb. 16. For details, call 914-1011 to 14.

The Alcove (Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City) presents **Kalakalan en Blanco y Negro**, a rich display of images depicting Philippine trade during the Spanish era. Till Feb. 28. For details, call 892-1801.

Gallera Duemila (4/F SM Megamall) presents **Spontaneous Architecture**, an exhibit by Australian artist Tony Twigg's multi-dimensional scupltures till Feb.. 28. For details, call 831-9990 or e-mail duemila@info.com.ph.

Zsa Zsa Padilla, Lani Misalucha and Freestyle headline The Love Concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Feb. 14.

Fem to Femme, an exhibit on the joys of womanhood featuring Christine Valentin and Stella Reyes at Bistro 110 (110 Carlos Palanca St., Makati City) till Feb. 28. For details, call (0917) 833-6369.

Forms and Textures, an exhibition of contemporary studio pottery by Nelfa Querubin at the Lobby of the Vargas Museum, UP Diliman, QC. Till Feb. 28. For details, call 920-5301 local 7407 or 7408.

Music

Jng Jeans jams with The Corrs at the Big Dome, featuring the Irish pop band in a one-night only concert on Feb. 16 at the Araneta Coliseum, presented by Nokia. Tickets available at all SM TicketNet outlets.

It's love times three when Zsa Zsa Padilla, Freestyle and Lani Misalucha give their all in **The Love Concert** on Feb 14 at the Araneta Coliseum. Tickets are priced at P1,200, P800, P600, P300 and P100 and are available at the Araneta Booking Office and all SM TicketNet outlets.

From the creators of the famous "Rock Da Vote" series comes **PP2: Remember me!** starring Ms. Ai Ai Delas Alas at the Music Museum on Feb. 23-24. Written by Ricky Lopez and directed by Floy Quintos. For details, call 721-0635 or 721-6726.

Kuh Ledesma with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra on Feb. 14 at the Hard Rock Cafe. For details, call 894-3611.

Onstage

To conclude its 25th season, Dulaang UP stages **Divinas Palabras** by Ramon del Valle-Inclan till Feb. 26. Directed by Prof. Jose Estrella and featuring Crispin Pineda, Eugene Domingo, Ricci Chan, Andoy Ranay, Raye Baquirin, Joel Saracho and Banaue Miclat at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, Palma Hall, UP Diliman, QC. For details, call 924-8589. 920-5301 local 7450.

Bart Guingona and Pinky Amador star in **Love Letters** at the Republic of Malate (1769 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila) on Feb. 14. For details, call 303-3529-30.

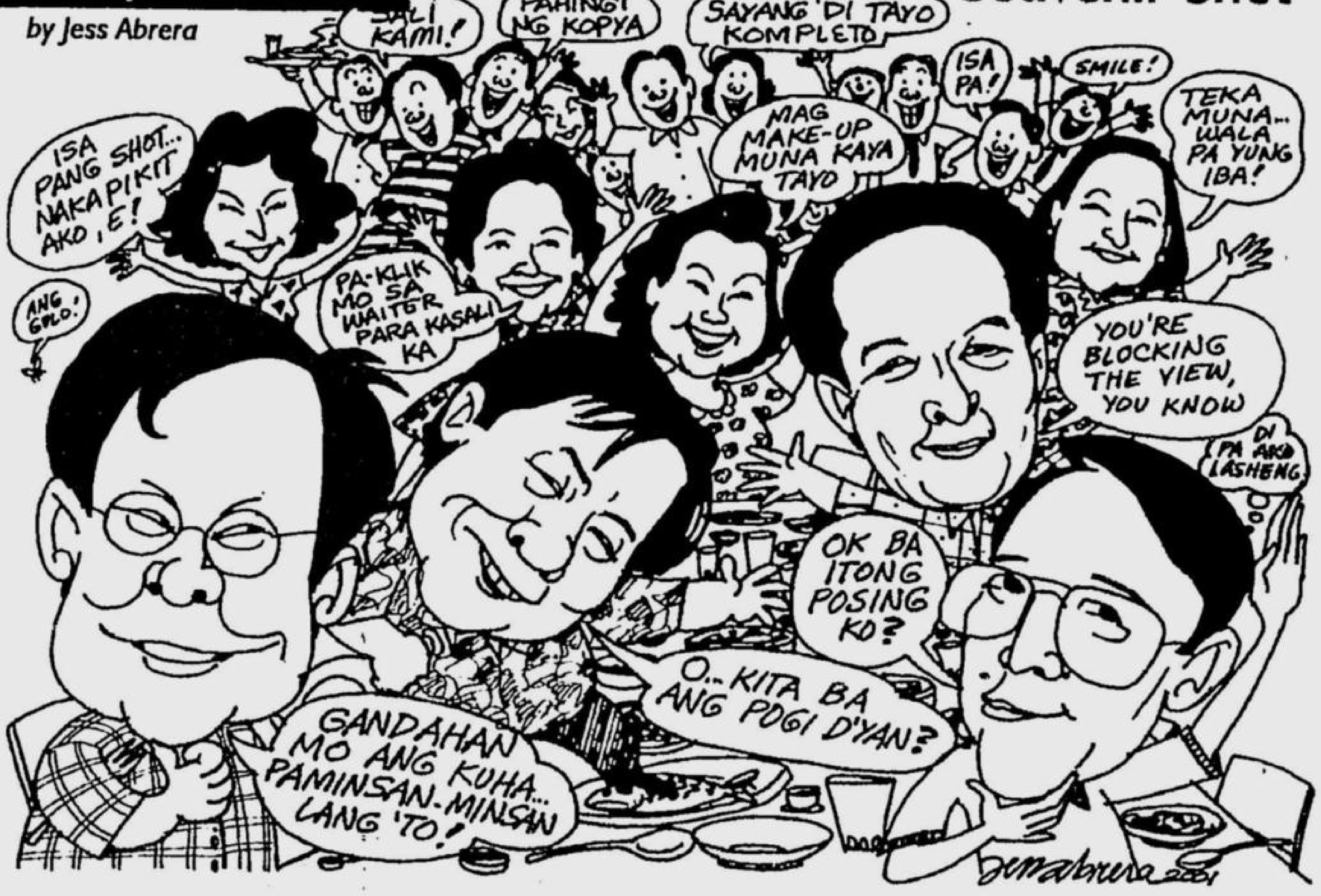
For its first offering in its 2001theater season, Repertory Philippines presents **Celebration III**, a musical revue directed by Baby Barredo and featuring Miguel Faustmann, Michael Williams, Rem Zamora,Liesl Batucan and others. Till Feb. 18 at the William J. Shaw Theater in Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City and the Carlos P. Romulo Theater at the RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. For details, 633-4821 to 25 or e-mail rep@broline.com.

Dramatis Personae and Instituto Cervantes, the Embassy of Spain and the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional present Pedro Calderon dela Barca's **Life is a Dream** *(La Vida es Sueño)*. Feb. 17, 18, 24, 25, Mar. 3,4, 10 and 11, at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Pius XII Theatre, Pius XII Catholic Center, UN Ave., Paco, Manila. For details, call 526-1482 to 85.

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Souvenir Shot


SALI KAMI!
PAHINGI NG KOPYA
SAYANG 'DI TAYO KOMPLETO
ISA PA!
SMILE!
TEKA MUNA... WALA PA YUNG IBA!
ISA PANG SHOT... NAKAPIKIT AKO, E!
MAG MAKE-UP MUNA KAYA TAYO
ANG GILO!
PA-KLIK MO SA WAITER PARA KASALI KA
YOU'RE BLOCKING THE VIEW, YOU KNOW
DI PA AKO LASHENG
OK BA ITONG POSING KO?
O.. KITA BA ANG POGI D'YAN?
GANDAHAN MO ANG KUHA... PAMINSAN-MINSAN LANG 'TO!
jessabrera 2001

Atbpa

After eight years of being the fashion authority, MEGA Magazine & Publications Inc. launches the country's first fashion portal **IVEGOTSTYLE.NET**. For details, call 631-2859 local 41.

Narrative Non-Fiction Writing Workshop at the Ayala Museum, Feb. 17 to Mar. 10. For details, call 812-1191 to 97, local 130.

Creative writing workshop for amateurs. Feb.11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Earthlite, 4/F, COD Dept. Store Bldg., Cubao, QC. For details, call 417-1521 or 0919-7405199.

Babies 101: A workshop for expectant mommies on Mar.3 at 1206 Medical Plaza, Ortigas, San Miguel Ave., Pasig. For details, call 637-3029.

The Japan Foundation in cooperation with the Japanese Studies programs of Ateneo de Manila University and Dela Salle University will sponsor the **5th International Conference on Japanese Studies** on Mar. 8 and 9 at the SDC Conference Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC. This year's theme is "Challenges & Opportunities of Japanese Studies in the New Millenium." Admission is free but registration/reservation is required. For details, call the Ateneo Japanese Studies program at 426-6001 local 5248 or the De La Salle Faculty Association Office at 523-5247.

Food

The Legend Hotel-Manila's Tanglaw Coffee Shop (60 Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City) will be offering a Valentine Set Dinner dubbed **Love Me Tender**, Feb. 12-16, featuring a Salad of Tanigue Fillet, Cappuccino of Corn and Pepper, pan-grilled Tenderloin of Beef, Parmesan Mashed Potatoes and Symphony, a dessert of puff pastry with caramel ala mode. For details, call 633-1501.

Celebrate the magic of love with the **Valentine Dinner Buffet** on Feb. 12-14 at Cafe Coquilla at the Holiday Inn Manila (United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila) with cold treats like Sushi, Sashimi, Black Forest Ham with Gherkins, soups like Cream of the Day, Roast Porkloin with Apple Sauce, and desserts like Apple Strudel with Vanilla Sauce at P600++ per person. For details, call 526-1212 extension 2318.

Make it a romantic evening at the Westin Philippine Plaza (CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City) with **the Romantic Valentine Room offer** of P2,500++ inclusive of breakfast for two and the best tables at the Alfiere Italian Bistro or the Poolside Barbecue on Valentine's Day. Till Feb 28. For details, call 832-6991 to 97 or 551-5555 extension 6991 to 6997.

X-manila

25th Jose Joya Awards and Exhibit at the SM Art Center, 2/f SM City Cebu. Till Feb. 24. Open to the public. For details, call 231-9851.

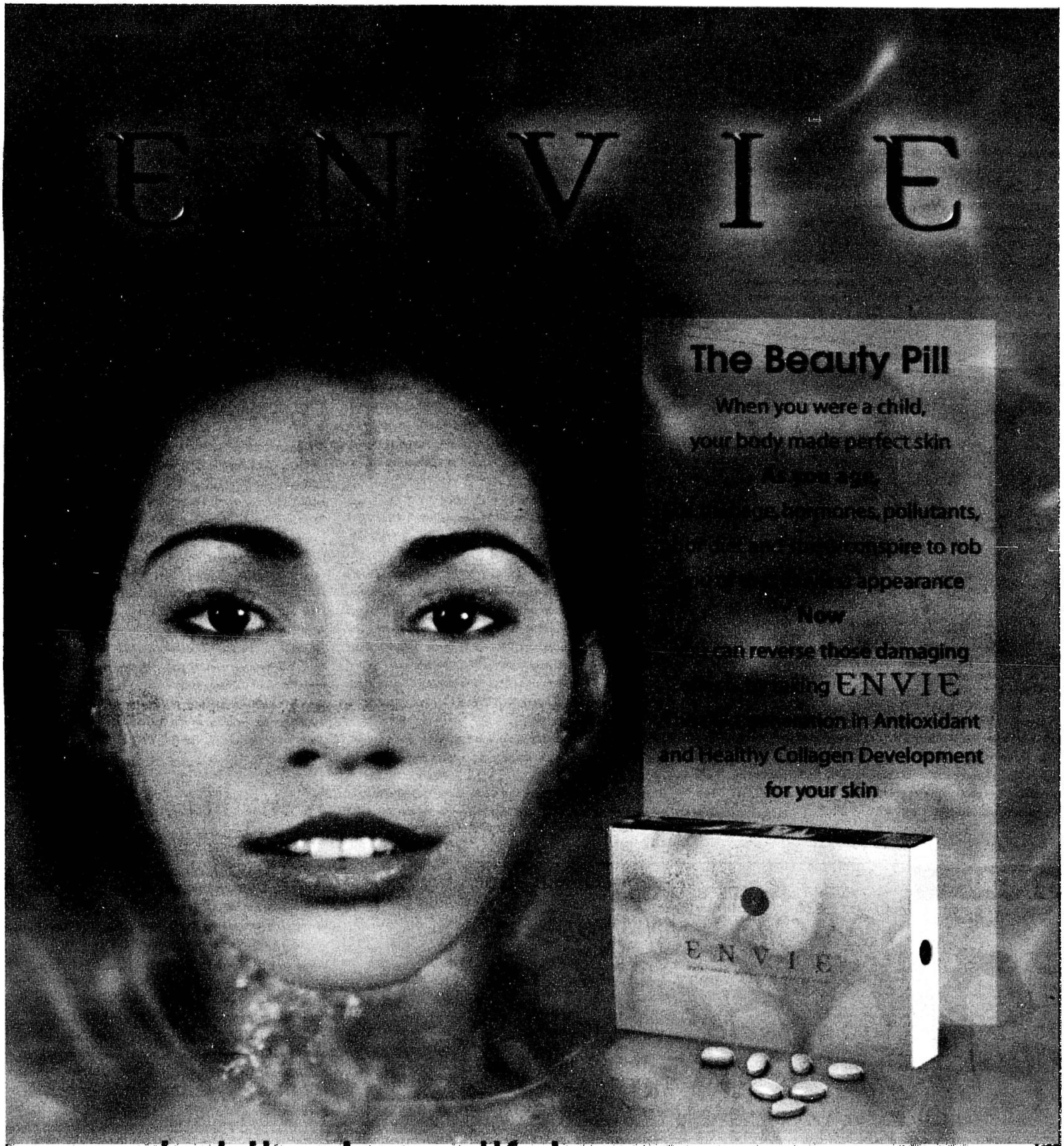
2nd Cebu International Business Opportunity Expo at the Cebu Trade Hall, 3/f SM City Cebu. Opens Feb. 16 and runs till Feb. 18, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Open to the public. For details, call 231-9851.

Linangan ng Kasaysayang Bayan, Iskuwela sa Tag-init 2001 presents an intensive 5-day course on Philippine history entitled ***Kasaysayan ng Bayan sa Larangang Pambansa at Lokal***. April 16-22 at the NFA Staff House and Training Center, Loakan Rd., baguio City. For details, write Prof. Ferdinand C. Llanes at PO Box 256, UP Diliman, QC or call 926-1088, or Dr. Rowena R. Boquiren at (074) 442-2427.

The Philippine International Furniture Show 2001. Begins Feb. 24-27 at the World ~~Trade~~ Center, Manila and ends at the Cebu International Convention Center, Cebu from Feb. 27 to Mar. 2. For details, call 631-2834/632-9007 (Manila), (32) 253-3091/253-0274 (Cebu) or e-mail pifs@cfipnet.com.

Pista-Sintura II, an arts month celebration with pandala painting, kite making, art fair, poetry and puppetry workshop, facilitated by Kutawato Arts Council and NCCA till Feb. 24 in Cotabato City. For details, call (061) 121-2221/121-3958.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.



E N V I E

The Beauty Pill

When you were a child,
your body made perfect skin
As you age,
[illegible] hormones, pollutants,
[illegible] conspire to rob
[illegible] appearance
Now
[illegible] can reverse those damaging
[illegible] ENVIE
[illegible] in Antioxidant
and Healthy Collagen Development
for your skin

Let the beautiful you emerge

NOW IN Mercury drug

[illegible] available at mart (781-1111 for free delivery)
and other leading drugstores nationwide.

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